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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Bangladesh

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Bangladesh was held at the 11th meeting, on 14 May 2018. The delegation of Bangladesh was headed by the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Anisul Huq. At its 17th meeting, held on 17 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Bangladesh.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Bangladesh: Afghanistan, Rwanda and Ukraine.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Bangladesh:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BGD/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BGD/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/BGD/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Bangladesh through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation said that "all human beings are born equal in dignity and rights", referring to article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and stated that, regrettably, discrimination and human rights violations were still present in what some analysts were calling a post–human rights era. In such a global context, Bangladesh had opened its border for the forcibly displaced nationals of Myanmar.

6. He said that, despite constraints, the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, had welcomed the Rohingya, whom he described as the most persecuted people in the world, who had been forced to flee from their homes in Myanmar. Bangladeshi people had embraced the 1.1 million helpless Rohingya, who, he said, had suffered the worst kind of human rights violations in Myanmar, and with support from the international community had provided basic services and temporary shelter. Humanitarian agencies had been given full access to Cox's Bazar, where the world's largest camp sheltered the Rohingya.

7. Bangladesh had made remarkable progress in terms of socioeconomic development, attaining record GDP growth of 7.5 per cent. The poverty rate had been brought down to 24.3 per cent in 2016, from 38.4 per cent in 2006. Life expectancy had increased to 72 years.

8. Bangladesh had met all three criteria for graduation from least developed country status, and believed that its inclusive development agenda, of leaving no one behind, was closely linked with its vision of ensuring human rights for all. The head of the delegation reported that, in the past five years, Bangladesh had made every possible effort to

implement the 191 recommendations accepted from the previous cycle, through a consultative process engaging the Government and civil society.

9. In the past four years, Bangladesh had submitted reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Bangladesh had also facilitated a visit by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and two visits by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar. Bangladesh had responded favourably to request for meetings from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Before entering into any further international obligations, Bangladesh needed to address capacity-building issues regarding its national institutions.

10. In the past five years, the National Human Rights Commission had been strengthened substantially. Furthermore, 50 parliamentary committees, including 39 standing committees and the Anti-Corruption Commission, were overseeing implementation of universal periodic review recommendations. The independent judiciary continued to play its due role as an effective recourse for justice.

11. Bangladesh maintained a "zero tolerance" policy regarding the criminal liability of law enforcement officials. The law in general neither accorded them immunity from criminal prosecution nor favoured them. Bangladesh unequivocally condemned all incidents of violence against religious and ethnic minorities and addressed allegations of such violence as promptly as possible.

12. To protect the rights of ethnic minorities, the Government had committed to implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in its entirety. The fifteenth amendment of the Constitution stipulated the State's responsibility to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribal and ethnic communities.

13. The democratic environment was thriving, with over 3,000 local and international non-government organizations currently operating in Bangladesh. Since the second review, 18 new television channels had been approved, bringing the total number to 34, and 2,800 newspapers were operating. Also, the Bangladesh Journalists' Welfare Trust Act 2014 had been enacted.

14. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index of 2017, Bangladesh had ranked forty-seventh out of 144 countries and first in South Asia. It had ranked seventh in the world for women's political empowerment. Through the seventeenth amendment of the Constitution, Bangladesh had extended the tenure of women Members of Parliament in reserved seats. One third of the seats had been reserved for women candidates in local body elections. For her pioneering role in empowering women, the Prime Minister had been honoured with the Global Women's Leadership Award 2018.

15. Bangladesh had enacted the Children Act 2013, updating the earlier Act, and also in 2013 had amended the Birth and Death Registration Act 2004. The Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act had been adopted in 2013. A separate act had been passed in 2013 to address the needs of persons, including children, with mental disorder and autism. The Government had reserved a 1 per cent quota for disabled persons for first-class government jobs and a 10 per cent quota for third- and fourth-class government jobs.

16. The Labour Act 2006 had been amended in 2013, providing flexible procedures for trade union registration and occupational health and safety measures. All garment factories were now recognized as compliant. To promote safe, orderly and regular migration, Bangladesh had enacted the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013.

17. The Government had adopted the National Social Security Strategy in 2015, ensuring the right to social security for unemployed persons, disabled persons, widows, orphans and elderly citizens. Bangladesh had also initiated a life cycle-based social security agenda, covering people of all age groups within the social security net equally and inclusively.

18. To ensure the safety and health of citizens, the Government had enacted the Food Safety Act 2013 and had also adopted the Food Safety Rules 2014. Under that Act, 64 pure food courts had been established.

19. At present, 97.9 per cent of the population benefited from improved drinking water coverage and 99 per cent of the population had been brought within the coverage of sanitation facilities.

20. Bangladesh had brought over 80 per cent of its people within the coverage of electricity facilities, and planned to ensure electricity for all by 2021.

21. Adult literacy had increased to 72.3 per cent in 2016, from 53.5 per cent in 2005. Government incentives, for example stipends, had resulted in a primary school enrolment rate of almost 100 per cent for girls.

22. To foster public health, Bangladesh had adopted, in 2016, its National Drug Policy. It had already formulated the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2017–2030.

23. Addressing global issues such as terrorism and violent extremism all over the world, Bangladesh had undertaken massive awareness programmes to prevent violent extremism and radicalization, engaging youth, women and community leaders.

24. To address the adverse impacts of climate change, at the initiative of the Prime Minister, a climate change trust fund worth $400 million had been established, with the country's own resources. Bangladesh had earmarked 6–7 per cent of its annual budget for adaptation projects. Bangladesh remained committed to fulfilling its obligations under the Paris Agreement, and called for international cooperation and assistance in addressing this challenge.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

25. During the interactive dialogue, 105 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

26. Sri Lanka stated that the opening of the borders to Rohingya refugees had been exemplary. It urged Bangladesh to implement its pledge to eliminate child labour by 2025.

27. The State of Palestine noted the efforts of Bangladesh to combat poverty and improve standards of living, and to promote women's rights, especially in work.

28. The Sudan recognized the efforts of Bangladesh in the field of human rights, and commended the country's cooperation with the Human Rights Council, despite challenges.

29. Sweden acknowledged the important role Bangladesh had played in the face of an overwhelming influx of Rohingya refugees deserving solidarity and support from the international community.

30. Switzerland called on Bangladesh to guarantee democratic, free and fair elections in 2018. It congratulated Bangladesh for hosting a large number of Rohingya refugees.

31. The Syrian Arab Republic applauded the efforts of Bangladesh to improve human rights, despite challenges and obstacles.

32. Thailand commended the amendments to different laws, and encouraged Bangladesh to continue working with Myanmar and international organizations to ensure voluntary repatriation of persons in Cox's Bazar.

33. Togo noted the decisions to strengthen the national human rights institution and the efforts made to address the challenges from the flow of Rohingya refugees.

34. Tunisia applauded efforts to improve human rights, including raising the marriage age, combating violence against women and combating human trafficking.

35. Turkey commended efforts to advance human rights, the cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, and the addressing by Bangladesh of the acute humanitarian situation from the influx of Rohingya refugees.

36. Turkmenistan noted reforms to the national system for the protection of human rights, and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman. It commended poverty reduction efforts.

37. Ukraine commended legislative and policy initiatives to tackle human rights challenges. It urged taking further steps to ensure the human rights of Rohingya refugees.

38. The United Arab Emirates applauded the progress in economic and social rights and commended the legislation to protect the family and preserve its social value.

39. The United Kingdom expressed concerns about allegations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. It called upon Bangladesh to address pressures on freedom of expression and of religion or belief.

40. The United States expressed concern about limitations on freedoms of association and expression targeting the opposition, and reports of human rights violations by the security forces, and urged holding genuine elections.

41. Uruguay welcomed the commitment to provide refuge to 800,000 Rohingya refugees, the replacement of the death penalty with other forms of punishment, and measures taken to prevent violence against women and children.

42. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated efforts to implement previous review recommendations, noted the national development programmes and housing projects, and asked about measures taken to empower women.

43. Viet Nam commended Bangladesh for its economic growth in 2017, and reducing poverty. It asked about the efforts made to combat climate change.

44. Yemen recognized the cooperation by Bangladesh with international partners to fulfil its human rights obligations, including legislative measures on torture, children and disabilities.

45. Zambia remained concerned that Bangladesh was lagging behind in fulfilling its international obligations and regarding cooperation with human rights mechanisms, and had not ratified a number of human rights instruments.

46. Zimbabwe noted the legislative, policy and administrative measures to promote and protect human rights, including the enactment of laws to protect children and persons with disabilities, and on food security.

47. Afghanistan acknowledged the various legislative and policy initiatives taken to strengthen national institutions. It noted the accommodation of about 1 million Rohingya refugees.

48. Algeria welcomed the adoption of measures to reinforce democratic practice and transparency in the management of public affairs. It welcomed measures adopted to combat corruption, and on Rohingya refugees.

49. Argentina commended the adoption of the seventh five-year plan, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals. It noted measures taken to combat discrimination and violence against minorities and to address the Rohingya refugee crisis.

50. Australia urged protection of the rights of displaced Rohingya. It underscored the importance of free, fair and inclusive elections later in the year. It noted extrajudicial deaths and the imposition of the death penalty.

51. Austria commended the sheltering of Rohingya, and expressed worry about reports of attacks against religious minorities, journalists and human rights defenders. It noted the age of criminal responsibility remained at 9 years.

52. Azerbaijan commended the graduation of Bangladesh from the least developed country category. It asked how the refuge of 1 million Rohingya people in the Cox's Bazar district had affected the rights of the Bangladeshi people.

53. Bahrain commended the passing of the Ombudsman Act, demonstrating the priority given by Bangladesh to delivering consistency and fairness in applying the law. It welcomed the development of the National Social Security Strategy, as it included targets from the Sustainable Development Goals.

54. Barbados commended Bangladesh for legislative reforms, and recognized that improving its human rights situation was a continuous process and Bangladesh had much more work to do.

55. Belarus welcomed the comprehensive and systematic work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and congratulated Bangladesh on the progress in improving its population's well-being.

56. Belgium recognized positive steps in implementing previous review recommendations, and encouraged further strengthening of the protection of human rights, in line with international treaties.

57. Benin commended efforts to implement recommendations from the previous review. It noted the good cooperation that Bangladesh had with the international human rights mechanisms.

58. Bhutan welcomed achievements in meeting the criteria to graduate from the least developed country category, and encouraged Bangladesh to continue with its people-centred development agenda, with particular focus on vulnerable sections of society.

59. The Plurinational State of Bolivia noted progress in poverty reduction, and was interested in learning about the country's experience with progressive implementation of the right to social security.

60. Bosnia and Herzegovina encouraged Bangladesh to submit its outstanding periodic treaty body reports, while acknowledging the efforts it had made to improve the human rights situation.

61. Botswana applauded Bangladesh for accommodating about 1 million Rohingya refugees. It noted legislative measures undertaken in line with treaty obligations on children, torture, and disabilities.

62. The head of the delegation thanked all for extending humanitarian support for the Rohingya and made a request for the support needed to ensure their voluntary, dignified and safe return.

63. He emphasized that even without acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951, and its Protocol, Bangladesh was doing more than countries that had signed those instruments, detailing support measures taken for the Rohingya. Responding to a question from Azerbaijan about the impact of the Rohingya crisis, he stated that currently in Cox's Bazar there were twice as many Rohingya as local residents. The influx had caused price hikes of basic goods in the area. The local people, unable to use their land for cultivation, lost out in the labour market to the Rohingya, who accepted lower wages. Municipal services had been unavailable to locals since the influx, adding more suffering. At the national level, resources had been diverted to deploy additional law enforcement officials in Cox's Bazar for the protection of the Rohingya, depriving other areas of the country.

64. Regarding law enforcement agencies and human rights, he underscored the zero-tolerance policy in cases of criminal liability of members of the law enforcement agencies, and gave the example of Narayanganj 7 murder case, in which the severest punishment had been meted out to convicted members of law enforcement agencies. The Government had an unequivocal, no-impunity stance regarding the involvement of law enforcement agencies in kidnapping or abduction.

65. He respectfully disagreed that enforced disappearances occurred in Bangladesh frequently. Often, cases of possible abduction of individuals were reported as enforced disappearances. He said that that was done with the obvious intention of maligning the Government and its achievements. In many cases, the perceived victims had reappeared, proving the allegations of the so-called enforced disappearance false.

66. The Government was vigilant to protect civil society and bloggers and thus create space for freedom of expression for all walks of life. It had instructed all police stations in Bangladesh to provide security for individuals. Since 2016, no new case had been found where such unfortunate killings had taken place or threats had been made.

67. The Information and Communication Technology Act had been enacted in 2006 to legalize electronic signatures. Following questions raised by the media, the Government had found the section incongruous and agreed to repeal section 57. To combat cybercrime and ensure cybersecurity, Bangladesh was in the process of enacting the Digital Security Act, and would ensure it did not affect freedom of speech and of expression.

68. In 2013, Bangladesh had amended the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 and had raised the marriageable age to 18 for girls and 21 for boys. The special provision in the Act regarding special circumstances would be applied only with the consent of the court and the guardians of the persons involved. So far, there had been no case of misuse of the provision. The Government would remain vigilant on its proper implementation.

69. Regarding ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, he stated that Bangladesh would have to make a detailed analysis of the provisions of the Convention and of their implications on the existing legal system. Thereafter, a decision would be made about whether ratification of the Convention was necessary. The enactment of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act 2013 had been testimony that Bangladesh accepted the recommendations of the second review cycle. Before ratifying the Optional Protocol allowing the complaint mechanism, Bangladesh would first need to address the gaps in the national legislation. The Government was planning to bring necessary amendments into the law, in consultation with concerned stakeholders.

70. Brazil commended the generosity in sheltering Rohingya and commended efforts to promote gender equality and reduce poverty. It encouraged Bangladesh to accede to the statelessness conventions and other important instruments.

71. Cambodia commended the amendment of human rights-related legislation, and achievements in economic and social development, and encouraged Bangladesh to provide resources to strengthen national institutions promoting human rights, democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

72. Canada welcomed efforts to host the Rohingya and called upon Bangladesh to implement the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

73. Chile welcomed progress made in human rights, but expressed concerns about pending requests for visits from special rapporteurs and a working group.

74. China welcomed the country's efforts in socioeconomic development, poverty reduction, and the improvement of education and health-care services and social protection systems.

75. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated Bangladesh for its solidarity with Rohingya refugees, and encouraged further improvement of the situation of women, children and refugees.

76. Cuba welcomed the approval of new laws and asked what priority the Government had established for providing social security to vulnerable groups.

77. Czechia welcomed the constructive attitude in accepting a great number of Rohingya refugees, but noted serious persisting human rights challenges.

78. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed legislative and policy measures taken to improve human rights and efforts to develop the country.

79. Denmark expressed concerns about child marriage, and about the lack of human resources and office equipment and the absence of rules that impeded the work of the land commission.

80. Djibouti welcomed progress made on the rights of the child and of persons with disabilities, and the strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission.

81. Egypt asked about the legal measures adopted and social security strategy launched to protect the elderly, and welcomed the adoption of a programme to provide jobs and stable income for the poorest groups.

82. Estonia commended Bangladesh for its efforts in keeping its borders open and protecting refugees fleeing discrimination, persecution and violence in Myanmar.

83. Finland commended measures taken since the last review cycle to address violence against women and girls, but remained concerned over the high number of reports of such violence.

84. France commended the progress made on the right to food, health care and education, and the good reception given to the refugees from Myanmar.

85. Gabon welcomed efforts in managing natural disasters and guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable people, such as women, children, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

86. Georgia welcomed the country's efforts to combat trafficking and commended its efforts to receive Rohingya refugees with full respect for the international protection regime, despite not being a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

87. Germany expressed appreciation to Bangladesh for offering refuge to hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees.

88. Ghana commended efforts to protect human rights and noted particularly the strengthening of democratic institutions and accountability mechanisms.

89. Greece commended the generosity in hosting Rohingya refugees and the immense efforts made by Bangladesh in facing the Rohingya humanitarian crisis.

90. Guyana congratulated Bangladesh on the distinction of having women in the roles of Prime Minister, Speaker, and Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

91. Haiti congratulated Bangladesh on its continued efforts to protect the rights of large numbers of refugees fleeing discrimination and violence in the region.

92. The Holy See acknowledged efforts to promote and protect human rights, particularly of Rohingya refugees, and progress made in poverty reduction and in interfaith dialogue.

93. Honduras expressed appreciation for progress in implementing recommendations from the previous review and reiterated its support for the Government's efforts.

94. Iceland paid tribute to the Government's hospitality and compassion in providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya community.

95. India commended the progress achieved in relation to development, poverty reduction and food security, and praised measures for improving gender equality in accessing education, health care and employment.

96. Indonesia commended the strengthening of institutional and legal measures to protect women from violence. It welcomed the adoption of the Ombudsman Act and the addressing of trafficking.

97. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted that the unexpected influx of Rohingya refugees had hindered the progress made to protect human rights, which required attention from the international community.

98. Saudi Arabia commended human rights education efforts, including the training provided by the National Human Rights Commission to the law enforcement agencies, and incorporating human rights in the police academy curriculum.

99. Ireland commended Bangladesh on its protection of Rohingya refugees and its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, while being concerned over legislation restricting freedom of expression and over reports of violence against human rights defenders.

100. Italy welcomed the commitment by Bangladesh to the review process, and particularly, efforts made to protect children's rights, and appreciated the intention to extend compulsory primary education.

101. Japan welcomed the adoption of the Judicial Service Discipline Rules, and efforts to promote capacity-building for judges and legal officials, and appreciated the decision to accommodate large numbers of refugees, and the continued dialogue with Myanmar.

102. Jordan commended the support provided by Bangladesh to the national institutions to promote human rights, and commended the legislative and administrative measures taken in that regard.

103. Kuwait welcomed the efforts made since the last review, mainly in cooperating with special procedures, enhancing the National Human Rights Commission, strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission and adopting human rights laws.

104. The head of the delegation stated that Bangladesh was now studying two drafts of the Anti-Discrimination Act and would soon come up with an Act.

105. To make access to justice freer, Bangladesh was addressing capacity issues in the judiciary, including encouraging alternative dispute resolution.

106. He stated that there was no child labour in the ready-made garments sector and that Bangladesh was committed to eliminating child labour in all its forms by 2025, as enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 8.7. Earlier, Bangladesh had reduced the membership threshold for setting up trade unions from 30 per cent to 20 per cent. The law had been amended to allow trade unions in export processing zones. Bangladesh had also acceded to the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), and the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98).

107. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended measures taken to implement human rights treaties at the national level, including the adoption of laws relating to torture, persons with disabilities, and children.

108. The Russian Federation welcomed steps to adopt laws on national food security, on children and on persons with disabilities, and effective steps to combat corruption.

109. Pakistan noted with appreciation the adoption of domestic violence prevention and protection rules and the enactment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and the efforts to eradicate poverty.

110. Libya appreciated efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations and treaty obligations, including the adoption of laws on persons with disabilities, preventing torture, and children.

111. Madagascar expressed satisfaction with the "zero tolerance" policy towards all forms of violence against religious minorities and with the adoption of the social security strategy.

112. Malaysia commended steps taken to strengthen national institutions to promote democracy, good governance and the rule of law, and the compassionate response to the Rohingya crisis. It asked about steps taken to reduce the use of pretrial detention.

113. Maldives commended Bangladesh on the legislative measures protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, and restraining child marriage, and on biodiversity.

114. Mexico recognized the progress made since the previous cycle, particularly the efforts to house over 1 million Rohingya refugees.

115. Montenegro welcomed progress in combating discrimination, remained concerned about discrimination against women and children in marginalized situations, and urged the revealing of discriminatory laws and policies.

116. Morocco commended the efforts made for the Rohingya, and in strengthening institutional mechanisms and combating terrorism.

117. Namibia commended Bangladesh for taking administrative and legal measures to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission, and establishing an Ombudsman's office and a child rights commission.

118. Nepal appreciated efforts aimed at strengthening the national human rights institutions, promoting gender equality, and hosting a large number of refugees on humanitarian grounds.

119. The Netherlands welcomed steps to reform legal restrictions on freedom of expression, related to religious groups and minorities. It regretted the Government's reluctance to denounce attacks against human rights defenders and restrictive legislation.

120. New Zealand commended the response by Bangladesh to the Rohingya crisis and efforts made to promote workplace safety, and remained concerned at the use of the death penalty and reprisals.

121. Nigeria commended Bangladesh for cooperating with human rights mechanisms, and its adoption of laws on the rights of persons with disabilities, children, combating torture, terrorism and trafficking.

122. Norway noted the country's remarkable social and economic progress, including poverty reduction and girls' education.

123. Oman applauded Bangladesh for its commitment to the rule of law, equality and justice, and for hosting about 1 million Rohingya refugees, adding to its national development challenges.

124. Lebanon praised the management by Bangladesh of the sudden influx of large numbers of refugees, despite its limited resources, and commended its efforts to meet its international obligations, particularly in human rights education.

125. Peru recognized the Government's generous welcome to Rohingya refugees and encouraged it to continue providing the necessary support to that population.

126. The Philippines commended the enactment of the Overseas Employment and Migrant Act, and efforts in poverty eradication and in addressing the adverse impact of climate change.

127. Poland acknowledged efforts to improve the human rights situation of Rohingya refugees, to combat discrimination and corruption, to strengthen access to justice and to protect vulnerable groups.

128. Portugal welcomed positive steps taken since the previous review, such as the adoption of a national strategy on refugees from Myanmar and undocumented nationals of Myanmar.

129. Qatar noted the efforts of Bangladesh to promote human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, consolidate democracy and strengthen the judiciary and its independence.

130. The Republic of Korea applauded the commitment by Bangladesh to accepting refugees from Myanmar and cooperating with the United Nations to protect their rights, and noted adoption of the Domestic Violence Act.

131. Latvia noted positive measures taken by Bangladesh and encouraged it to make further efforts in fulfilling its human rights obligations.

132. Iraq appreciated efforts to implement recommendations of the previous review and to implement human rights treaty obligations at the national level through legislative and policy measures.

133. Senegal hailed measures to help vulnerable groups, the submission of reports to the treaty bodies and the hosting of displaced Rohingya despite resource challenges.

134. Serbia welcomed measures to strengthen the independence of the National Human Rights Commission and improve court capacity. It encouraged Bangladesh to enforce national legislation on child labour and invest in access to justice.

135. Singapore commended the prioritization of the protection of women, and the adoption of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children, and was confident of the success of efforts to transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021.

136. Slovakia appreciated efforts to train journalists, expressing concern about cases of murder of journalists. It noted that disadvantaged children had limited educational opportunities.

137. Slovenia welcomed the work to ensure children's rights, particularly efforts to eradicate child marriage, and expressed concern about the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

138. South Africa commended the Perspective Plan 2010–2021, the implementation of five-year plans and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms.

139. Spain noted efforts to promote and protect human rights, especially of minorities, to combat torture and to improve job security, and invited Bangladesh to approve the National Plan on Persons with Disabilities.

140. Tajikistan noted positively the enactment of numerous laws on children and persons with disabilities, and combating torture, for the promotion and protection of human rights.

141. Ecuador commended efforts to cope with the influx of refugees, and progress on the rights of children and persons with disabilities and on combating corruption.

142. The head of the delegation noted that Bangladesh had ratified the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Before entering into an Optional Protocol related to complaint mechanisms, Bangladesh would like to make existing national institutions stronger and more effective.

143. Regarding youth and employment, he noted that 1.4 million new jobs had been created since 2015. The Employment Generation Programme for the poorest provided a secure and regular source of income to over 700,000 people, more than 30 per cent of them women.

144. He noted that Bangladesh was a multiparty democracy and political parties enjoyed freedom of assembly and peaceful protest. He stated that it was unfortunate that, since 2014, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party had boycotted or disrupted election processes in ways condemned by many. The Government was committed to ensuring people's right to vote, at any cost. Elections would be held on time, in accordance with Constitutional provisions, under the independent Election Commission.

145. The Supreme Court had issued a directive to stop all forms of corporal punishment against children at educational institutions and the Government had issued a circular accordingly. The head of the delegation stressed that when considering the human rights situation of a country, we must not lose sight of its specific social, political, cultural, economic and demographic situation. Therefore, efforts needed to be aligned with the people's views, opinions and values, specifically on issues such as the death penalty or same-sex relations.

146. The head of delegation concluded by thanking all delegations, the troika members, the National Human Rights Commission and other stakeholders.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

147. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Bangladesh and enjoy the support of Bangladesh:**

147.1 **Continue constructive cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Tajikistan);**

147.2 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations and its mechanisms to protect and promote human rights (Kuwait);**

147.3 **Continue to strengthen national mechanisms that strengthen the human rights situation (Sudan);**

147.4 **Incorporate provisions of international human rights instruments to which it is a party into its domestic legislation (Zimbabwe);**

147.5 **Make further efforts to strengthen existing national legislation to address discrepancies and to enact new legislation to implement international human rights instruments it is a party to (Bhutan);**

147.6 **Continue to bring its national legislation and policies fully in line with its international commitments (Barbados);**

147.7 **Bring legislation into conformity with the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by repealing restrictive provisions that limit the rights of journalists, human rights defenders and civil society organizations to freedom of expression and free speech (Latvia);**

147.8 **Promptly implement the recommendations accepted in the second cycle of the universal periodic review, on extrajudicial executions, and enforced disappearances, and against torture (France);**

147.9 **Establish a plan of action to ensure full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord (Australia);**

147.10 **Launch a road map with a clear timeline for the speedy, proper and full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Accord (Denmark);**

147.11 **Continue efforts to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord and ensure that the ethnic minorities fully enjoy their rights (Maldives);**

147.12 **Increase efforts to implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord (New Zealand);**

147.13 **Continue to implement the national social security strategy, prioritizing the situation of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly (Belarus);**

147.14 **Provide a mechanism to follow up the full implementation of the Parental Maintenance Act of 2013 (United Arab Emirates);**

147.15 **Continue to strengthen human and financial resources of the National Human Rights Commission (Turkey);**

147.16 **Continue to implement measures aimed at strengthening the National Human Rights Commission (Zimbabwe);**

147.17 **Provide the National Human Rights Commission with the resources to fully implement its mission (France);**

147.18 **Provide adequate financial and technical resources to the National Human Rights Commission to enable it fulfil its mandate (Ghana);**

147.19 **Continue to strengthen the role of the National Human Rights Commission (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.20 **Provide further support to the National Human Rights Commission to enable it to fulfil its mandate in the best manner and in line with the Paris Principles (Qatar);**

147.21 **Pursue the effective implementation of the Five-Year National Development Plan (Lebanon);**

147.22 **Ensure security forces abide by relevant national and international standards in countering criminal and extremist activity (Australia);**

147.23 **Ensure that police officers are adequately trained and instructed to investigate reports of harassment, attacks and death threats against journalists,**

media workers, human rights defenders and activists and ensure the protection of those under threat in accordance with international human rights law (Finland);

147.24 **Focus on training the women of Bangladesh, in particular policewomen, to increase the percentage of female blue helmets (Haiti);**

147.25 **Further accelerate the process of adoption of the anti-discrimination legislation (Georgia);**

147.26 **Expedite the formulation of the Elimination of Discrimination Act (Thailand);**

147.27 **That the anti-discrimination law be drafted to protect the rights of marginalized communities and that it be consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (South Africa);**

147.28 **Advance its policy of promoting a culture of peace, supporting collective measures against racism, xenophobia and hatred of Islam, and protecting the victims of these crimes (Oman);**

147.29 **Intensify efforts to ensure gender equality in the area of education (United Arab Emirates);**

147.30 **Establish a legislative framework to eliminate discrimination against marginalized and disadvantaged children (Madagascar);**

147.31 **Take specific measures aimed at eliminating all forms of discrimination and stigma in health-care settings, in particular against those persons who are in a more vulnerable position, including in the context of mental health and of HIV/AIDS (Portugal);**

147.32 **Continue to promote a culture of peace and support anti-racism measures (Sudan);**

147.33 **Continue the efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and promote economic and social sustainable development in order to lay solid foundations for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);**

147.34 **Implement the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and achieve that goal through continuing efforts with development partners and the international community to accelerate the implementation of those goals (Egypt);**

147.35 **Continue efforts and development plans to transform Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021 and into a developed country by 2041 (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.36 **Continue to carry out inclusive public policies targeting vulnerable groups in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (Senegal);**

147.37 **Continue its efforts in addressing the negative impacts of climate change (Viet Nam);**

147.38 **Develop strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change (Gabon);**

147.39 **Continue efforts to combat terrorism and trafficking in persons (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.40 **Continue efforts to combat terrorism, including addressing root causes, in full conformity with international norms (Saudi Arabia);**

147.41 **Continue efforts to combat violent extremism, notably through the studies of the root causes of this phenomenon (Morocco);**

147.42 **Sustain efforts in combating terrorism and drug trafficking (Nigeria);**

147.43 Enhance the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights in accordance with the level of socioeconomic development of the country in keeping with international human rights instruments (Tajikistan);

147.44 Redouble efforts and commitments in upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms (Nigeria);

147.45 Enact legislation clearly prohibiting corporal punishment (Zambia);

147.46 Formulate rules of procedures for the use of clause 22 of the 2017 Child Marriage Restraint Act to clarify existing gaps in order to prevent misuse of the provision allowing marriage for children below the legal age in "special circumstances" (Denmark);

147.47 Continue to strengthen its measures in preventing child marriages (Viet Nam);

147.48 Amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act to maintain the legal minimum age at 18 years (Republic of Korea);

147.49 Move towards the real and effective elimination of child marriage, restricting to the maximum the application of exceptions (Spain);

147.50 Step up measures to combat child prostitution and early marriage (Gabon);

147.51 Strengthen existing law and practice to guarantee effectively the rights of children, in particular by combating violence against children, child labour and forced marriages, and by improving access to education (Poland);

147.52 Establish a comprehensive national system for the protection of children to prevent and respond to violence against children, prohibit corporal punishment of children and implement awareness and education programmes in this area (Uruguay);

147.53 Put an end to the practices of early marriage and the payment of dowries by implementing laws prohibiting such practices (Belgium);

147.54 Promptly and thoroughly investigate all allegations of extrajudicial execution or enforced disappearance and bring those responsible to justice (Switzerland);

147.55 Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);

147.56 Consider revising the Penal Code and the Children Act in order to prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings and raising the minimum legal age for marriage to 18 years under all circumstances (Namibia);

147.57 Continue the efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);

147.58 Continue efforts to eliminate human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);

147.59 Continue paying attention to the issue of trafficking in human beings at the national and the international level (Belarus);

147.60 Take immediate steps to implement the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Rules under the 2012 Act, and the National Plan of Action 2015–2017, as a means of addressing the high levels of trafficking (Botswana);

147.61 Continue efforts to combat trafficking in humans, particularly the exploitation of children, by stepping up measures against traffickers (Djibouti);

147.62 Enhance cooperation at all levels to address trafficking in persons, in particular women and girls (Guyana);

147.63 **Work with civil society to develop a road map to implement Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 on combating religious intolerance (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

147.64 **Continue working on enhancing religious freedom and prevention of extremism and violent extremism (Holy See);**

147.65 **Take effective measures to ensure that the press can work free from the oppression by instances of censorship, threats, physical assaults and killings (Slovakia);**

147.66 **Take prompt and effective measures to ensure that freedom of assembly and expression extends in practice — both online and offline — to all people, media, civil society and political parties, throughout the upcoming election campaign and beyond (Canada);**

147.67 **Protect freedom of expression in media, politics and religion, and work with civil society to address concerns regarding section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

147.68 **Review all existing and proposed legislation relating to freedom of expression, both online and offline, to ensure that it fully complies with the relevant international standards (Ireland);**

147.69 **Take effective measures to ensure freedom of expression and end all assaults on journalists and human rights defenders, as well as ensure that the proposed Digital Security Act is in line with international standards (Estonia);**

147.70 **Guarantee freedom of expression in the Digital Security Act (France);**

147.71 **Ensure democratic space for all political actors, including the implementation of domestic laws, without restrictions on the exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and of peaceful assembly (Switzerland);**

147.72 **Continue to invest in information and communications technologies for its large youth population, with a view to ensuring a better standard of living (India);**

147.73 **Safeguard freedoms of political expression and association, without reprisals, censorship, intimidation or restrictive legal action, and that Bangladesh safeguard the independence of media (New Zealand);**

147.74 **Continue efforts to protect freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief for all citizens and residents, and to support civil society participation (Poland);**

147.75 **Publicly commit to ensuring that journalists, bloggers, human rights defenders and civil society organizations are able to carry out their activities without fear of surveillance, intimidation, harassment, arrest, prosecution or retribution (Austria);**

147.76 **Guarantee the security of human rights defenders (France);**

147.77 **Protect human rights defenders and journalists from harassment by combating impunity and ensuring the prompt and impartial investigation of all violations against human rights defenders (Netherlands);**

147.78 **Ensure that human rights defenders, journalists and civil society have a safe and enabling environment and can operate freely without fear of reprisals (Norway);**

147.79 **Ensure a free, fair and inclusive general election, with full participation of all parties, and increase efforts to strengthen democracy (Japan);**

147.80 **Ensure effective protection of the lives and security of human rights defenders and journalists against human rights violations, including enforced disappearance, torture and extrajudicial killings (Republic of Korea);**

147.81 **Continue its efforts to combat the stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS (Gabon);**

147.82 **Continue taking further steps for the strengthening of the judicial system (Tajikistan);**

147.83 **Ensure procedures of the International Crimes Tribunal meet fair trial standards in accordance with article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);**

147.84 **Consider measures to accelerate trial process with a view to reducing pending cases and the number of pretrial detainees as well as safeguarding their basic rights (Malaysia);**

147.85 **Continue efforts to improve and speed up the processing of cases in the courts (Benin);**

147.86 **Ensure that investigations into cases of killings, abduction attempts, physical attacks and threats against human rights defenders are prompt, effective and impartial (Ireland);**

147.87 **Strengthen the National Legal Aid Services with the necessary financial, human and technical resources to enable effective representation of those in need (Guyana);**

147.88 **Continue its policy to improve the judicial system, the law enforcement bodies and to reduce levels of corruption and poverty (Russian Federation);**

147.89 **Investigate all cases of murder and violence against journalists and bloggers and bring the perpetrators to justice (Slovakia);**

147.90 **Strengthen measures for protecting the family in order to work for the best interest of the child (Egypt);**

147.91 **Use effective measures to eliminate and prevent violations of economic, social and cultural rights (Turkmenistan);**

147.92 **Continue to adopt positive measures to better protect the right to education, health, employment and other rights of its people (China);**

147.93 **Proceed with the development of the legislative structure by additional laws that aim at promoting and protecting human rights, especially in the field of education and health (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.94 **Enact a law on patients and health-care service providers and mobilize the necessary means for its implementation (Algeria);**

147.95 **Continue efforts to improve health and education and to combat discrimination (Libya);**

147.96 **Step up efforts made to improve economic and social rights, notably through follow-up to the 2021 vision and the five-year plan (2016–2021) (Morocco);**

147.97 **Continue to guarantee the right to food for marginalized groups, and make efforts together with the international community on this (Cuba);**

147.98 **Continue consolidating the successful housing plans for all (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.99 **Ensure the implementation of the National Social Security Strategy, focusing specifically on delivering social security to the most vulnerable groups (Bahrain);**

147.100 **Continue increasing the successful social programmes, in the fight against poverty and social exclusion (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.101 **Continue efforts to reduce poverty among the most vulnerable populations (Algeria);**

147.102 **Continue in the programme of combating poverty through supporting microfinance programmes (Sudan);**

147.103 **Establish appropriate programmes to guarantee to Bangladeshis living in poverty access to economic growth in the country in a tangible and practical way (Haiti);**

147.104 **Step up efforts to implement poverty reduction measures (Philippines);**

147.105 **Step up its efforts to eliminate poverty and improve living standards (Qatar);**

147.106 **Continue to implement its strategies and plans and work to adopt a plan to ensure access to drinking water and sanitation services for poor neighbourhoods and rural areas (State of Palestine);**

147.107 **Continue promoting access to drinking water and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

147.108 **Promote greater access to safe and drinkable water and sanitation, especially in rural areas (Holy See);**

147.109 **Amend the Bangladesh Labour Act and Export Processing Zone Labour Act, in consultation with workers and employers, to ensure the provisions on freedom of association conform to international labour standards (United States of America);**

147.110 **Adopt further measures to guarantee workers' rights, also in line with the "Sustainability Compact" (Italy);**

147.111 **Continue efforts to strengthen labour inspection authorities to conduct assessments of the safety of workplaces (Jordan);**

147.112 **Take the necessary steps to hold companies accountable for practices with a negative impact on workers' health, well-being and safety (Ecuador);**

147.113 **Improve the working conditions of women by monitoring and punishing lawbreakers among employers (State of Palestine);**

147.114 **Take effective measures to protect workers' rights, including by reducing the existing gender wage gap and improving working conditions (Botswana);**

147.115 **Continue to implement national measures to address the wage gap between the two sexes (State of Palestine);**

147.116 **Reduce the wage gap between the two sexes and ensure women's access to the labour market (Iraq);**

147.117 **Continue efforts to significantly strengthen measures combating unsafe and unhealthy working conditions, in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and relevant ILO conventions (New Zealand);**

147.118 **Strengthen existing follow-up mechanisms for the protection of women workers against all forms of exploitation, particularly those working in the informal sectors, and require businesses to answer for practices that are harmful to the health, well-being and safety of women workers (Côte d'Ivoire);**

147.119 **Strengthen efforts to protect female workers from exploitation (Guyana);**

147.120 **Strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms to protect female workers from all forms of exploitation, particularly those working in the informal sector (Ghana);**

147.121 **Strengthen the existing national monitoring mechanisms aimed at protection of women workers from all kinds of discrimination, in particular those working in informal sector (Serbia);**

147.122 **Make further effort to improve health infrastructures particularly in rural areas and intensify training programmes for health professionals (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

147.123 **Increase access to basic health care, particularly in rural areas, with the aim of reducing and preventing maternal, fetal and infant mortality (Holy See);**

147.124 **Continue promoting access to health services, facilitating greater access to mental health, maternal health and neonatal health care (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

147.125 **Treat the right to education similarly to other rights in the Constitution (Guyana);**

147.126 **Strengthen national measures and international cooperation to achieve the goal of education for all (Belarus);**

147.127 **Continue measures to broaden the educational system, including the enshrining of the right to free and compulsory education (Peru);**

147.128 **Continue to invest in quality education for creating a knowledge-based society to ensure equality, justice and peace (Turkey);**

147.129 **Extend compulsory primary school and make efforts to increase the school participation rate of the marginalized groups (Slovakia);**

147.130 **Continue efforts to improve the quality of education in public schools, towards the realization of the right to development (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.131 **Ensure a continued focus on girls' education throughout the country especially for poor and marginalized children and youth and ensure that they all complete their education (Afghanistan);**

147.132 **Invest in quality education, and make use of information and communication technology to create employment opportunities for its youth population (Azerbaijan);**

147.133 **Continue its efforts at increasing the number of children, particularly girls, enrolled in free and compulsory primary education, and hopes that free and compulsory education is extended to all secondary school-age children irrespective of gender or ethnicity (Barbados);**

147.134 **Continue its efforts to ensure full enrolment of children, particularly girls, in schools and to provide quality education (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

147.135 **Intensify efforts to improve the education system and ensure equal access to quality education for all, particularly for women and girls (Djibouti);**

147.136 **Implement policies to increase the enrolment ratio of girls in primary and secondary schools to give them a good start in life (Singapore);**

147.137 **Further enhance its efforts to achieve higher enrolment ratios of girls in primary and secondary schools (Thailand);**

147.138 **Continue efforts to develop practical measures to implement the Informal Education Act of 2014 (Tunisia);**

147.139 **Take additional measures, in consultation with civil society, to strengthen progressive social reforms, in particular to empower women and girls, and to combat religious extremism (Haiti);**

147.140 **Continue assistance and promotion on women's empowerment in all sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

147.141 **Continue to prevent violence against women, in accordance with the National Action Plan (2013–2025), with regular monitoring (Sri Lanka);**

147.142 **Combat violence against women and children and take action for their rights (France);**

147.143 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women (Tunisia);**

147.144 **Intensify its efforts towards combating violence against women (Georgia);**

147.145 **Strengthen existing monitoring mechanisms to protect women and children from all forms of violence and exploitation (Nepal);**

147.146 **Continue to tackle sexual violence against women to ensure protection of women's rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

147.147 **Take concrete measures to prevent and to protect women from domestic violence, ensure effective access to legal recourse and hold perpetrators to account (Norway);**

147.148 **Ensure sufficient resources are allocated to fully implement all major components of the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (Singapore);**

147.149 **Ensure the registration of children in order to protect them from abuses, exploitation, abandonment and human rights violations (Holy See);**

147.150 **Take strong measures to eradicate child labour, and violence and crimes against children (Chile);**

147.151 **Adopt legislation and comprehensive public policies to guarantee the human rights of persons in a situation of human mobility, with a gender, intergenerational and intercultural focus (Ecuador);**

147.152 **Continue to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring that public places are friendly to persons with disabilities (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

147.153 **Facilitate the access to education, health care and public services for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

147.154 **Consider the possibility of developing a national plan or national framework for protecting the rights of persons with special needs (Lebanon);**

147.155 **Continue implementing the legal, policy and administrative measures to protect the rights of ethnic minorities (South Africa);**

147.156 **Ensure the effective investigation and sanctioning of all cases of violence against religious minorities (Austria);**

147.157 **Guarantee the protection and rights of persons belonging to minorities (France);**

147.158 **Continue its proactive role in dealing with international migrations (Indonesia);**

147.159 **Enhance intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers (Nepal);**

147.160 **Strengthen measures to protect migrant workers (Peru);**

147.161 **Continue efforts to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the recruitment system of migrant workers from Bangladesh (Philippines);**

147.162 **Work closely with bilateral and regional partners in lowering the cost of migration for migrant workers from Bangladesh (Philippines);**

147.163 **Improve the conditions of migrant workers, in accordance with international conventions and treaties (Iraq);**

147.164 **Continue efforts to host the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals until they voluntarily return to their homeland in safety, security and dignity (Yemen);**

147.165 **Continue to pursue strong efforts bilaterally as well as internationally and with help and assistance from the international community, for the sustainable resolution of the Rohingya crisis (Azerbaijan);**

147.166 **Continue to work with international partners and Myanmar to find a sustainable solution that enables those displaced to return home voluntarily, safely and with dignity (New Zealand);**

147.167 **Continue to hold constructive dialogue with Myanmar and make efforts to implement the bilateral agreement, aiming at steady and rapid repatriation of refugees (Japan).**

148. **The following recommendations will be examined by Bangladesh, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

148.1 **Ratify the main international human rights instruments (Zambia);**

148.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Madagascar);**

148.3 **Enforce constitutional provisions safeguarding freedom of expression, including by amending section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and relevant provisions of the draft Digital Security Act (Australia);**

148.4 **Ensure legal and constitutional protection of indigenous and religious minorities, and facilitate the reporting of violations of their rights (Estonia);**

148.5 **Fully comply with the Paris Principles and increase the institutional capacity and financial and human resources of the National Human Rights Commission (Chile);**

148.6 **Continue its efforts in strengthening the capacity of its national human rights institution, namely the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh, and of the newly established Ombudsman (Indonesia);**

148.7 **Amend the Marriage Act and maintain a minimum legal age of marriage at 18 without exceptions (Zambia);**

148.8 **Eliminate child, early and forced marriage, including by reforming the Child Marriage Restraint Act to remove the exception for child marriage in "special cases", as this term is open to abuse (Canada);**

148.9 **Eliminate early marriages and ensure education on sexual and reproductive health and rights for adolescents (Estonia);**

148.10 **Step up the efforts to prevent child, early and forced marriages, particularly in rural areas and slums, and to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act by introducing a minimum legal age of marriage of 18 without any exceptions (Slovenia);**

148.11 **Take action against child, early and forced marriages with or between children by reformulating the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 2017 to**

clarify the gaps in the legislation and to prevent misuse of the "special circumstances" clause (Sweden);

148.12 **Enhance efforts to prevent cases of torture and enforced disappearance and to prosecute perpetrators (Italy);**

148.13 **Review and amend the laws that restrict freedom of expression, such as section 57 of the 2006 Information and Communication Technology Act (Mexico);**

148.14 **Review and redraft the proposed Digital Security Act to ensure online freedom of expression (Norway);**

148.15 **Redraft the Digital Security Act in line with international norms and standards for freedom of expression (Sweden);**

148.16 **Thoroughly investigate extrajudicial killings, abductions and forced disappearances taking place within law enforcement agencies, while also ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Sweden);**

148.17 **Investigate all allegations of human rights violations by the police and security forces and take legal steps so that those responsible for enforced disappearances, custodial torture and extrajudicial killings are held accountable (Norway);**

148.18 **Increase labour inspections and take action against individuals and organizations that subject migrant workers to forced labour and human trafficking (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

148.19 **Continue increasing efforts to combat all types of violence against women and girls, and eradicate discriminatory practices and measures against them, guaranteeing the full exercise of their rights, including those related to sexual and reproductive health (Uruguay);**

148.20 **Combat gender stereotypes and protect women from all forms of abuse and harm, including gender-based violence and marital rape, and address the persistent gender wage gap, among others (Namibia);**

148.21 **Raise the minimum age for criminal responsibility for juvenile offenders in line with recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Austria);**

148.22 **Continue improving Rohingya refugees' conditions and investigating allegations of abuses and human rights violations against them in accordance with international standards (Holy See);**

148.23 **Step up efforts to guarantee the rights of refugees, with full respect of the principle of non-refoulement (Mexico);**

148.24 **Strengthen those measures that have been taken to ensure that all children and young persons among the refugees have effective access to the right to education, and guarantee the registration of all refugee children born in Bangladesh regardless of race, religion, national origin or the citizenship of their parents, particularly children of Bangladeshi and Rohingya couples (Argentina).**

149. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below did not enjoy the support of Bangladesh and would thus be noted:**

149.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

149.2 **Accede to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Iceland);**

149.3 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**

149.4 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro) (Iceland) (Togo) (Spain);**

149.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Iraq) (Senegal) (Togo) (Ukraine); / Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Peru);**

149.6 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance without reservations before the next universal periodic review (Greece);**

149.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Ukraine);**

149.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

149.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Poland);**

149.10 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment at the earliest convenience (Ghana);**

149.11 **Take steps to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sri Lanka);**

149.12 **Ratify the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) for the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and the members of their families (Madagascar);**

149.13 **Ratify the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Occupational Cancer Convention, 1974 (No. 139) for the elimination of child labour (Spain);**

149.14 **Accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees in order to better assist and protect these persons in distress (Côte d'Ivoire);**

149.15 **Consider becoming a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951 (Georgia);**

149.16 **Become a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951 (New Zealand);**

149.17 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 1951, and ensure the short- and long-term conditions for the dignified, safe and voluntary return of displaced persons to their place of origin (Switzerland);**

149.18 **Remove the reservations to article 2 and article 16 (1) (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Latvia);**

149.19 **Issue and implement a standing invitation to all special procedures (Czechia);**

149.20 **Respond positively to pending visit requests by special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider extending a standing invitation to all mandate holders (Latvia);**

149.21 **Enhance its fight against impunity and torture including by ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel,**

Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and establishing a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czechia);

149.22 **Provide human, technical and financial resources to the National Human Rights Commission so it can fulfil its mandate and grant it a new mandate to investigate human rights violations (Honduras);**

149.23 **Expand the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission to investigate all human rights violations, including those involving State security actors, and provide it with adequate resources, in order to fulfil its mandate (Namibia);**

149.24 **Adopt, without delay, new non-discrimination legislation with a view to promoting gender equality, and, without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion or any other status, criminalize all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape, irrespective of the age of the victim, domestic violence and all forms of sexual abuse and harassment, ensuring also security and justice to the victims (Finland);**

149.25 **Take measures to fight violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Brazil);**

149.26 **Take effective steps to include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in human rights legislation, recognizing the many dangers and challenges faced by the community, including the *hijra* (Canada);**

149.27 **Establish effective protection against discrimination, harassment and violence against sexual minorities (Norway);**

149.28 **Acknowledge the existence of sexual and gender minorities in the country, and furthermore abolish section 377 of the Criminal Code and thus decriminalize consensual sexual acts between same-sex couples (Slovenia);**

149.29 **Repeal section 377 of the Criminal Code and include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected category in the new anti-discrimination law (Chile);**

149.30 **Protect and promote the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons through a broad legal framework, that includes the revision of laws that may be discriminatory, such as section 377 of the Penal Code (Mexico);**

149.31 **Take the necessary measures to repeal in its legislation the criminalization of consensual sexual acts between people of the same sex (Argentina);**

149.32 **Decriminalize in the Criminal Code relations between same-sex adults (Honduras);**

149.33 **Ensure that threats and violence against human rights defenders, and in particular women defenders and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex defenders, because of their work or perceived or actual gender identity, are effectively prosecuted and do not go unpunished (Belgium);**

149.34 **Review the special provision of the Child Marriage Restrain Act 2017 and implement legislation that effectively criminalizes all forms of gender-based violence (Germany);**

149.35 **Criminalize marital rape in all circumstances, and provide for the protection and psychological, mental and physical rehabilitation of victims (Portugal);**

149.36 **Abolition of the death penalty (Benin) (Portugal) (Czechia);**

149.37 **Adopt the legislation abolishing the death penalty and establish a moratorium on all pending executions (Slovakia);**

149.38 Reduce the number of crimes to which the death penalty applies, as a step towards eventual abolition of the death penalty (Australia);

149.39 Enact a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it (Holy See);

149.40 Introduce a moratorium as a first step towards final abolition of the death penalty (Austria);

149.41 Establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);

149.42 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, as a first step towards complete abolition of this practice (Italy); / Take steps towards the full abolition of the death penalty (New Zealand); / Consider the imposition of a moratorium on the death penalty (Poland);

149.43 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition (Chile);

149.44 Continue the process of edging out the death penalty with a view to totally abolishing it (Namibia);

149.45 Decriminalize defamation and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards, and take steps to create an independent broadcast licensing authority (Estonia);

149.46 Revise media laws, in consultation with civil society, to decriminalize "defamation" and "hurting religious sentiment", and limit proposed extended jail terms for these offences (United States of America);

149.47 Expand its democratic space online and offline in which opposition politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and other civil society members can operate freely and without fear for their lives, and to this end revise section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and amend the Foreign Donation Regulations Act (Czechia);

149.48 Ensure that human rights activists and journalists can exercise their rights without fear, intimidation and harassment by redrafting the planned Digital Security Act, and repealing or amending all laws that violate the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including the provisions of the Penal Code related to defamation and sedition, the Information and Communication Technology Act (in particular section 57), and the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, in line with international human rights law (Germany);

149.49 Repeal the Information and Communication Technology Act (2006), as amended in 2013, or modify the Information and Communication Technology Act to bring it in line with international law and standards (Greece);

149.50 Repeal all laws and policies that restrict the activities and rights of its citizens and civil society organizations, including the Information and Communication Technology Act of 2006 and the Foreign Donations Regulation Act of 2016 (Netherlands);

149.51 Ensure that all refugee and stateless women and girls have effective access to justice without being threatened with arrest, by amending the 1946 Foreigners Act (Iceland);

149.52 Strengthen measures to prevent, investigate, and hold security forces accountable for human rights violations and abuses, including providing an update on investigations into the alleged disappearances of Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem and Amaan Azmi (United States of America);

149.53 End impunity by conducting thorough investigations and criminal prosecutions of human rights violations and abuses against human rights

defenders, journalists, bloggers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Germany);

149.54 **Adopt legislative and political measures to ensure that women and young people have access to sex education and free use of friendly reproductive health services, particularly in rural areas and for persons on low incomes (Honduras);**

149.55 **Take further steps to fight all forms of violence and discrimination, in particular against women, children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Italy);**

149.56 **Adopt legislation criminalizing all forms of violence against women and girls, including marital rape (Iceland);**

149.57 **Comprehensively review the legislation in order to recognize gender equality and the protection of indigenous people and ethnic minorities (Honduras);**

149.58 **Strengthen policies and measures to protect indigenous peoples (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

149.59 **Step up efforts in order for indigenous peoples, especially the Jumma and the Dalit, to fully enjoy their human rights (Peru);**

149.60 **Ensure access to justice to refugees and stateless individuals, in particular women and girls, including those belonging to ethnic minorities (Brazil).**

150. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Bangladesh was headed by Hon'ble Law Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, H.E. Mr. Anisul Huq, MP and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Md. Shahriar Alam, MP. Hon'ble State Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Mohammad Shahidul Haque, Senior Secretary, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- H.E. Mr. M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador & Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Dr. Md. Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Mr. Khondaker Mostan Hossain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs;
- Ms. Nasreen Afroz, Director General (Joint Secretary), Prime Minister's Office;
- Mr. Md. Mizan-Ul-Alam, Joint Secretary (Press), Ministry of Information;
- Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, ndc, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs;
- Mr. Mostofa Faruque, Director General, Bangladesh Election Commission;
- Ms. Sadia Faizunnesa, Director General (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Fakhrul Ahsan, Armed Forces Division;
- Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim, Additional Deputy Inspector General, Special Crime Management, Police HQ, Bangladesh Police;
- Representative; Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Representative, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education;
- Mr. Toufiq Islam Shatil, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Farzana Mamtaz, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare;
- Mr. Md. Waliur Rahman, Director (State Minister's Office) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Emdadul Islam Chowdhury, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Mosammat Shahanara Monica, Director (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Masum, Private Secretary to Law Minister, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs;
- Mr. Md. Robiul Islam, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
- Ms. Tahleel Dilawar Moon, Senior Assistant Secretary (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- Mr. Md. Abdul Wadud Akanda, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN Office and other, International Organizations, Geneva;
- Advocate Rana Das Gupta, General Secretary, Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad;
- Advocate Kawser Ahmed, Consultant;
- Barrister Shah Ali Farhad, Senior Analyst, Centre for Research and Information;
- Mr. Md. Showeb Abdullah, Assistant Secretary (United Nations), Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the universal periodic review*

Russian Federation

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of the Russian Federation was held at the 12th meeting, on 14 May 2018. The delegation of the Russian Federation was headed by the Minister of Justice, Alexander Konovalov. At its 17th meeting, held on 17th May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on the Russian Federation.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the Russian Federation: Cuba, Ethiopia and Philippines.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the Russian Federation:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/RUS/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/RUS/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/RUS/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Ukraine was transmitted to the Russian Federation through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Russian Federation stated that the main achievements and impediments to the realization of human rights, since the second universal periodic review, were described in detail in the national report, which had been prepared in cooperation with civil society.

6. The Russian Federation continued to make efforts to strengthen the international and national institutional frameworks for the protection of human rights. The Constitution gave precedence to universally recognized principles and norms of international law over the provisions of national legislation. Among the international conventions ratified during the period under review were the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. In addition, delegations of the Russian Federation traditionally took an active part in the work of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Human Dimension Implementation Meetings and other human rights forums, and interacted with treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Council. The Russian Federation also participated in the activities of regional human rights organizations.

7. At the national level, the Constitutional Court actively pursued its efforts to protect the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. Based on its decisions, changes were made in the legislation aimed at strengthening the normative framework for the protection of human rights.

8. In order to improve the quality of national human rights mechanisms, regional commissioners were appointed in various areas of protection of the rights of citizens. Thus,

the protection of human rights in the Russian Federation was carried out both at the federal and the regional levels, which was undoubtedly the most important guarantee of compliance for the realization of human rights.

9. Special units had been set up to combat corruption within governmental bodies. Law enforcement agencies had been actively working to uncover corruption crimes. Citizens could report on known facts involving corruption. During the reporting period, more than 40,000 criminal cases involving corruption had been brought before the courts. Responsibility for indirect forms of bribery had been established as a criminal offence, in compliance with international obligations.

10. Measures had been taken to protect against discrimination, promote tolerance and counteract various forms of intolerance. The definition of discrimination was contained in the Criminal Code. The national strategy on action for women had been approved to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex, and the State nationalities policy strategy had been adopted to prevent and eradicate all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of ethnicity or nationality.

11. The strategy on countering extremism in the Russian Federation had been adopted in 2014. Extremist activities were defined by criminal law and were prosecuted. They included incitement to social, racial, ethnic or religious hatred; promotion of superiority or inferiority of a person on the basis of social, racial, national, religious or linguistic grounds; propaganda and public demonstration of Nazi or similar symbols; public incitement to the commission of those acts; mass production and distribution of materials of that content; and organization and preparation of those acts, their financing and incitement to their implementation. The Criminal Code contained over 10 crimes related to motivations involving political, ideological, racial, national or religious hatred or enmity. Particular attention had been paid to the prevention of racial intolerance and other extremist manifestations during major international sports competitions in the country.

12. Policies and strategies had been adopted on the protection of socially vulnerable groups, including the national strategy on action for children, the strategy for the development of education, and the framework for the State family policy. A draft law was being prepared on the prevention of and protection against domestic violence. For people with disabilities, programmes had been developed to create comfortable living conditions, to integrate them into society and to promote their employment. In 2017, a federal law had been adopted that established a system of State control over the access of persons with disabilities to facilities and services.

13. During the reporting period, the Russian Federation had taken further steps to strengthen the independence of the judiciary. The digitalization of the judicial system was gaining momentum and procedural and penitentiary reforms had been undertaken. Alternative punishments to deprivation of liberty were being given preference, including fines and community service, which had resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of prisoners.

14. Currently, over 225,000 non-profit organizations were registered with the Ministry of Justice. About half of them were socially oriented and focused their work on solving social problems. Those non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and those working to promote and protect human rights received additional support from the State authorities, including through special Presidential grants.

15. A key governmental objective was providing social support to the population. That included poverty reduction policies, such as the establishment of the minimum wage at the equivalent to the minimum living standard as of 2019, child allowance, support for medium-sized enterprises, including a simplified taxation system, strengthening the responsibility of employers for late payment of wages, compulsory social insurance, and the development of prenatal centres.

16. Developments in the education system were currently focused on rural areas, and included human rights education and improving the public's legal literacy.

17. The rights of numerically small indigenous peoples were enshrined in the Constitution. Measures had been taken to develop education in national languages and

considerable funds had been invested in the preservation and restoration of the historical and cultural heritage of the peoples of the Russian Federation.

18. In the process of implementing democratic reforms, the authorities had paid significant attention to international regulatory experience in relevant areas, and to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. Over recent years, progress had been made in implementing the legal positions of the European Court in the national legal system.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. During the interactive dialogue, 115 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made recommendations.

21. Sri Lanka encouraged the Russian Federation to continue cooperation with the Human Rights Council.

22. The State of Palestine welcomed the national plan for persons with disabilities and the State's commitment to implementing recommendations.

23. The Sudan commended the State's engagement with the universal periodic review and the institutional and legal developments it had implemented since the previous review.

24. Sweden made recommendations.

25. Switzerland made recommendations.

26. The Syrian Arab Republic made recommendations.

27. Thailand commended the establishment of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights.

28. Togo welcomed the establishment of the Office for Migration.

29. Tunisia praised the Russian Federation for strengthening human rights mechanisms.

30. Turkey stated that it followed the situation in Crimea closely, particularly with regard to the safety and well-being of the Crimean Tatars, and hoped that the authorities of the Russian Federation would take the necessary steps to improve their situation.

31. Turkmenistan noted the strengthened dialogue on combating racism, xenophobia and ethnic and religious intolerance.

32. Ukraine made recommendations.

33. The United Arab Emirates welcomed efforts to train law enforcement agents to combat discrimination.

34. The United Kingdom remained concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in the Russian Federation, its disregard for international commitments, and its action in the region, including in the illegally annexed Crimea.

35. The United States was concerned by restrictions on the rights of members of the political opposition.

36. Peru made recommendations.

37. Uzbekistan welcomed the cooperation of the Russian Federation with human rights mechanisms.

38. Spain made recommendations.

39. Viet Nam welcomed the amendment of the law to reduce cases of deportation of foreign nationals with well-established social ties in the Russian Federation.

40. Yemen welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

41. Zambia encouraged the State to ratify all the international human rights instruments to which it was not yet a party.

42. Zimbabwe welcomed efforts to provide medical care to orphans and children without parental care.

43. Afghanistan commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

44. Algeria welcomed social assistance measures for vulnerable groups.

45. Angola made recommendations.

46. Argentina congratulated the State on its participation in the second international conference on Safe Schools.

47. Armenia welcomed the State's ratification of treaties, its cooperation with human rights mechanisms and its steps to protect women, children and vulnerable groups.

48. Australia made recommendations.

49. Austria was concerned about restrictions on freedom of association and assembly.

50. Azerbaijan commended the State's ratification of treaties and its judiciary reforms.

51. Bahrain commended the State's efforts to uphold human rights.

52. Bangladesh noted the State family policy and encouraged the Russian Federation to further protect human rights.

53. Belarus commended work towards a constructive and depoliticized international human rights agenda.

54. Belgium was concerned about the situation of human rights defenders.

55. Benin applauded the State's ratification of treaties on children rights and on trafficking in human organs.

56. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed measures on health, education, housing and sustainable rural development.

57. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed measures to combat human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children.

58. Botswana welcomed the State's ratification of treaties and its efforts to strengthen the independence of the judiciary.

59. Brazil encouraged the State to combat discrimination, hate speech and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals.

60. Bulgaria recognized the adoption of the national strategy on action for women and the activities of the Commissioner for Human Rights. Bulgaria noted restrictions on freedom of assembly, expression and association, and violations of vulnerable groups' rights.

61. Burkina Faso made recommendations.

62. Burundi welcomed the introduction of Human Rights Commissioners, policies to fight corruption and institutions to protect children's rights.

63. Canada urged the Russian Federation to cease violations of the rights of minorities and of human rights defenders in Crimea.

64. Chile was concerned about the law decriminalizing domestic violence committed by a relative.

65. China congratulated the State on its achievements on judicial guarantees, living standards and protection of vulnerable groups.

66. The Congo welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Commissioners and socioeconomic measures for vulnerable groups.

67. Costa Rica welcomed the national strategy on action for women 2017–2022.

68. Côte d'Ivoire acknowledged the strengthened legal and institutional framework and encouraged the State to pursue human rights reforms.

69. Cuba made recommendations.

70. Cyprus encouraged the Government's efforts to provide social support and combat corruption.

71. Czechia made recommendations.

72. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted the Government's efforts to combat racism and neo-Nazism.

73. Denmark was concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

74. Ecuador noted the Government's efforts to ensure equal treatment of its citizens and protect the rights of children.

75. Egypt noted the ratification of international human rights treaties.

76. Estonia made a statement and recommendations.

77. Ethiopia noted the ratification of many international human rights treaties.

78. Finland noted with concern the overall deterioration of the human rights situation in the Russian Federation and urged the Government to comply with its international obligations and cooperate with international human rights mechanisms.

79. France made recommendations.

80. Gabon noted the creation of the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights.

81. Georgia was concerned at human rights violations in the Russian Federation and in territories under its effective control.

82. Germany made recommendations.

83. Honduras made recommendations.

84. Hungary encouraged the Government to strengthen its cooperation with regional human rights mechanisms.

85. Iceland was concerned about interference in people's freedom of religion and about the crackdown on human rights defenders and journalists.

86. India noted measures taken to protect vulnerable groups and combat discrimination.

87. Indonesia noted the Government's efforts to improve the standard of living of persons with disabilities.

88. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted efforts to improve citizens' quality of life.

89. Iraq noted the national strategies on women and children.

90. Ireland noted efforts to combat discrimination against women.

91. Italy commended the Russian Federation for its ratification of several international human rights instruments.

92. Japan welcomed measures to protect children and persons with disabilities.

93. Kazakhstan encouraged the Russian Federation to extend its migration legislation.

94. Kyrgyzstan welcomed measures to promote and protect human rights.

95. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended the Russian Federation for adopting its child protection policy.

96. Latvia was concerned about violations of fundamental freedoms in the Russian Federation.

97. Lebanon noted the commitment of the Russian Federation to pluralism and coexistence in its human rights policy.

98. Libya highlighted progress in children's rights.

99. Liechtenstein welcomed the moratorium on the death penalty.

100. Lithuania regretted the failure of the Russian Federation to implement some of the recommendations it had accepted at the previous review.

101. Luxembourg made recommendations.

102. Madagascar commended the Russian Federation for ratifying international instruments and establishing a migration administration.

103. Malaysia recognized the improvements the Russian Federation had made in its human rights legal framework.

104. Maldives commended the Russian Federation for its law prohibiting child trafficking and exploitation.

105. Mali welcomed the strategies on women's rights and poverty reduction.

106. Mauritania welcomed the Government's continuous efforts to combat corruption, inter alia, through legislative and administrative measures to guarantee transparency in public administration. It called for further efforts to combat racial discrimination and xenophobia and to narrow the gender wage gap.

107. Mexico acknowledged progress regarding the rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

108. Montenegro was concerned about discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and hate speech.

109. Mozambique acknowledged progress regarding previous recommendations and the ratification of human rights instruments.

110. Myanmar acknowledged the strengthening of fundamental rights and freedoms, especially efforts to combat gender-based violence.

111. Namibia welcomed recent legal and institutional measures affecting human rights.

112. Nepal welcomed the new commissioners for human rights and children's rights.

113. The Netherlands called for greater tolerance towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and for prevention of discrimination.

114. New Zealand made recommendations.

115. Nicaragua made recommendations.

116. Nigeria welcomed anti-corruption measures and legislation on strengthening the family and non-discrimination.

117. Norway made recommendations.

118. Pakistan made recommendations.

119. Paraguay noted the creation of the posts of Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights and the regional commissioners for the rights of indigenous peoples.

120. Uruguay applauded the fact that the Russian Federation had respected the moratorium on the death penalty.

121. The Philippines welcomed numerous positive developments on human rights in the Russian Federation.

122. Poland was concerned that discrimination against residents of Crimea was on the increase.

123. Portugal welcomed the measures taken to prevent manifestations of racial discrimination in sport.

124. Qatar underscored the importance of promoting children's rights and combating discrimination and violence against women.

125. Romania noted the importance of promoting human rights issues.

126. Rwanda encouraged the Russian Federation to adopt more proactive measures through the implementation of relevant anti-discrimination legislation.

127. Saudi Arabia congratulated the Russian Federation on the adoption of a national strategy for the development of education, prioritizing children's upbringing.

128. Senegal welcomed the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework.

129. Serbia commended the Government's measures to build a society based on tolerance.

130. Singapore welcomed the steps taken to promote the equal participation of women in all spheres.

131. Slovakia was concerned at reports of harassment and intimidation of lawyers, journalists and human rights defenders.

132. Slovenia encouraged the Government to take measures to foster a safe and enabling environment for civil society.

133. South Africa made recommendations.

134. The Republic of Korea welcomed the efforts of the Russian Federation to tackle crimes motivated by racism.

135. The delegation of the Russian Federation noted that the questions and recommendations from several delegations regarding human rights in territories that were not part of the Russian Federation, specifically Donbass, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, were unacceptable as they did not comply with the principles of the universal periodic review, as set out in resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 of the Human Rights Council. The remark that those territories were under the "effective control" of the Russian Federation was without basis. Moreover, the reference to the "illegally annexed" Crimea at the hands of the Russian Federation was also unacceptable. The populations of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol had chosen to be part of the Russian Federation through a free and democratic referendum, therefore exercising their right to self-determination, which was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and fundamental international instruments.

136. Accordingly, in the territory of Crimea and Sevastopol, all the laws of the Russian Federation were in force, without exception. Citizens were under the protection of the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and all cases of violations of the rights of those living in Crimea and Sevastopol were handled by the relevant authorities. The Russian Federation was ready to welcome representatives of international organizations to Crimea, provided visits were conducted impartially, in accordance with the mandates of the relevant organizations and the rules and procedures applicable to visits to the territory of the Russian Federation.

137. Several delegations had referred to alleged discrimination on various grounds in the Russian Federation without providing the Working Group with factual accounts. Those references were based merely on a general presumption of discrimination, reportedly on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious or political beliefs, or against human rights defenders and journalists. However, there was no evidence of such discrimination or the related violations. Individuals could be prosecuted only for criminal violations or administrative offences, such as violations of the laws regulating rallies, demonstrations and marches, statements made in the media, viewpoints published online or activities of a religious organization. No one could be prosecuted on the grounds of their political views. The decision to prohibit activities such as rallies, media publications and religious activities lay with the judiciary, which was independent of the executive. Those

decisions were taken in strict compliance with the laws of the Russian Federation, including those relating to combating extremism.

138. Similarly, a number of statements had made reference to hate speech, without mentioning any specific cases. The Russian Federation could not bear full responsibility for every individuals' views. Nonetheless, individuals who violated the rights of others or acted against the political or religious beliefs of others would be held accountable.

139. As for the recommendations that had been made on protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, especially in the Chechen Republic, investigations had revealed that there had been no incidents of discrimination against those persons.

140. The civil rights of non-profit organizations that were considered foreign agents were not affected, provided they observed the relevant administrative and legal requirements. Some 76 such organizations had recently adjusted their foreign financing arrangements and were now pursuing the activities declared in their charters.

141. The delegation confirmed that the judiciary was independent and impartial. The allegations that had been made about the politically motivated nature of courts decisions were groundless.

142. The Russian Federation acknowledged the recommendations concerning the need to provide social assistance to victims of domestic violence; centres providing such assistance did exist, but more were needed. Legislation was in place concerning the enjoyment of the rights of women, and individuals could be held criminally responsible for discriminating against them.

143. The Russian Federation was actively implementing the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council. However, a number of decisions of the European Court of Human Rights remained unclear and could not be implemented. Nonetheless, cooperation with the European Court on those issues would continue. While the Russian Federation had always supported the ratification of international conventions, their implementation took time.

144. Between 2012 and 2017, the Government had implemented a national strategy on action for children, including amendments to the Family, Civil and Criminal Codes, the Code of Administrative Offences, the Law on Guardianship and the Law on Guarantees of the Main Rights of Children. The Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights played an important role in terms of child protection. The Commissioner paid particular attention to the protection of children in vulnerable situations, such as orphans and children with disabilities. Additional efforts were being made to protect children's rights in court.

145. Concerning labour and social protection, the minimum wage had for the first time been increased nationwide to represent 100 per cent of the minimum living standard, and would be indexed in the future. That measure and similar steps, taken together, had benefited over 3 million poor workers. Moreover, efforts were ongoing to develop a system of allowances and other forms of support for families with children. As for people with disabilities, a major push was under way to create the necessary conditions for employing such persons. Over the previous five years, there had been a 150 per cent increase in subsidies paid to organizations of persons with disabilities. Support had also been provided to companies that helped employ persons with disabilities. A plan had been approved for 2017–2022, with the overall goal of increasing the number of persons with disabilities in the labour market. In addition, a quota mechanism for the employment of persons with disabilities was being finalized.

146. Special attention was paid to pension support for retirees. All pensions were now indexed annually, with pensions currently exceeding the inflation rate. In the future, measures to combat poverty would be continued. A systematic programme was being developed to improve the quality of life of elderly persons and to increase life expectancy.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

147. **The following recommendations will be examined by the Russian Federation, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

147.1 **Promptly ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan) (Togo);**

147.2 **Continue considering accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Mozambique) (Yemen);**

147.3 **Ratify the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan) (Philippines);**

147.4 **Consider ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal) (Sri Lanka);**

147.5 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align national legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

147.6 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in its 2020 version, including the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression, and review its national legislation in order to ensure full alignment with the Statute (Liechtenstein);**

147.7 **Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism, as required under that Protocol (Liechtenstein);**

147.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Denmark) (Poland) (Hungary);**

147.9 **Consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Senegal) (Chile);**

147.10 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention against Torture and to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

147.11 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein) (Portugal) (Togo);**

147.12 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and take steps towards a de jure abolition of the death penalty (Italy);**

147.13 **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, taking into account that the Russian Federation considers itself to be in full compliance with the fundamental obligation under the same (Namibia);**

147.14 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, while welcoming the Russian Federation's continued observation of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and the adoption of relevant legislation (Rwanda);**

147.15 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay) (Romania);**

147.16 **Continue actions and initiatives aimed at ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin);**

147.17 Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Costa Rica);

147.18 Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Madagascar) (Paraguay);

147.19 Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain);

147.20 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro) (Slovakia);

147.21 Formally endorse the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and implement its principles in national legislation (Norway);

147.22 Consider acceding to the core international human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party (Zimbabwe);

147.23 Accede to international human rights instruments to which the country is not yet a party, particularly the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (Honduras);

147.24 Consider ratifying the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Burkina Faso);

147.25 Sign and ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to guarantee the right to health and to a healthy environment (Ecuador);

147.26 Ensure that the Russian Federation's international human rights obligations are fully implemented, as foreseen in the Russian Constitution (Estonia);

147.27 Repeal laws that allow the decisions of international human rights bodies, notably the European Court of Human Rights, to be disregarded (Lithuania);

147.28 Fully comply with the provisional measures order of 19 April 2017 of the International Court of Justice (Ukraine);

147.29 Grant approval for all pending visit requests by special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and consider extending a standing invitation to all mandate holders (Latvia);

147.30 Extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Paraguay);

147.31 Issue a standing invitation to all international human rights mechanisms (Czechia);

147.32 Cooperate fully with international human rights monitoring mechanisms, including United Nations Special Rapporteurs, and ensure their unrestricted access throughout the Russian Federation and to the illegally annexed Crimea in order to fulfil its obligation as an occupying force to guarantee the protection of human rights (Estonia);

147.33 Continue to cooperate constructively with all treaty bodies and United Nations mechanisms by participating actively in the work of the Human Rights Council at the United Nations (Nicaragua);

147.34 **Actively participate in the international exchange of best practices in the promotion and protection of human rights (Pakistan);**

147.35 **Continue the policy of negotiations and non-politicized constructive dialogue in dealing with the global agenda of human rights and continue presenting and organizing initiatives in the Human Rights Council for this purpose (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.36 **Take vigorous efforts to strengthen equal and respectful cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights, in line with the internationally recognized principles and norms of international law (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.37 **Continue working to minimize the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures applied by some countries against the Russian Federation, which affect the enjoyment of human rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.38 **Oppose the politicization of human rights and their use to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.39 **Ensure access to the occupied Crimea by international human rights mechanisms (Ukraine);**

147.40 **Uphold obligations under international law to allow access to Crimea for international human rights monitors (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

147.41 **Continue efforts to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework of the national system for the promotion and protection of human rights (Cuba);**

147.42 **Establish an independent national authority on the promotion of women (Honduras);**

147.43 **Continue further strengthening the posts of the Commissioners, particularly that for human rights (India);**

147.44 **Develop a national programme for system-wide support and improvement of the quality of life of older persons (Cuba);**

147.45 **Continue the concerted efforts to improve and strengthen human rights protection arrangements (Ethiopia);**

147.46 **Redouble its efforts aimed at raising the awareness of the population about the promotion and protection of human rights (Indonesia);**

147.47 **Establish a permanent national mechanism for follow-up and implementation of the recommendations received from the different human rights mechanisms (Paraguay);**

147.48 **Consider the establishment of a national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up on human rights issues (Portugal);**

147.49 **Establish follow-up mechanisms and present reports to implement the national tolerance programme established in 2016 (United Arab Emirates);**

147.50 **Ensure the compliance of domestic legislation with the obligations of the Russian Federation under international law in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms (Poland);**

147.51 **Accelerate the process of amending its domestic legislation and practices in line with the provisions of international human rights instruments (Zimbabwe);**

147.52 **Restore full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at home (Ukraine);**

147.53 **Take measures to review existing legislation to be in line with international human rights obligations and foster an enabling environment for civil society (Austria);**

147.54 **Review national legislation and take administrative measures to address the concerns expressed by the Human Rights Committee regarding the free exercise of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Costa Rica);**

147.55 **Repeal or revise legislation in order to bring it into conformity with the obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to ensure protection of the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly (Latvia);**

147.56 **Adopt a comprehensive law against gender violence and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), and advance in the recognition and implementation of the women and peace and security agenda (Spain);**

147.57 **Conclude its work on drafting a federal law on preventing domestic violence (Congo) (Gabon);**

147.58 **Draft and enact legislation that would clearly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings (Zambia);**

147.59 **Amend the Criminal Code in order to add provisions that explicitly criminalize the recruitment of all children under 18 years of age by the armed forces and by non-State armed groups (Zambia);**

147.60 **Take the necessary measures to amend national legislation and include provisions that explicitly criminalize the recruitment of children under 18 years of age by the armed forces and by non-State armed groups (Argentina);**

147.61 **Repeal the law on foreign agents and ensure that the freedoms of assembly, association, expression, demonstration and the press are not limited (Spain);**

147.62 **Repeal the legislation on "undesirable organizations" and "foreign agents" (Sweden);**

147.63 **Repeal laws on "foreign agents" and "undesirable" organizations, and amend vague and overly broad "extremism" legislation to prevent this from being used to target those exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association (Australia);**

147.64 **Revise or repeal legislation that unduly limits the freedoms of association, assembly, expression, religion or belief, including the "foreign agents" law and the law on "undesirable organizations" (Canada);**

147.65 **Repeal laws that limit freedom of expression online and offline, including the so-called Yarovaya package of counter-terrorism legislation (Sweden);**

147.66 **End the practice of using the broad and vague anti-extremism and counter-terrorism legislation to pursue politically motivated charges (Sweden);**

147.67 **Relinquish de facto executive control over the media, the parliament and the courts, and repeal or amend legislation used to criminalize normal societal discourse, such as that on "extremism", foreign agents, undesirable foreign organizations, anonymizer bans, and Internet blacklisting, as well as the "Yarovaya amendments", which are used to criminalize normal societal discourse, so that all its laws are consistent with the Russian Federation's human rights obligations and commitments (United States of America);**

147.68 **Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation, including measures to allow lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons to exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly without fear of harassment (Ireland);**

147.69 **Amend legislation to include an explicit provision on prohibition of discrimination based on gender (Iceland);**

147.70 **Repeal Federal Law No. 135-FZ by means of which "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relationships" is a criminal offence (Denmark);**

147.71 **Pursue the practice of State assistance to NGOs working in the area of promotion and protection of human rights (Kazakhstan);**

147.72 **Adopt measures to implement its national policy in order to ensure equality of human rights and freedoms regardless of race, nationality, language, religion or belief, and provide appropriate government funding for related activities (Pakistan);**

147.73 **Strengthen activities at all levels to combat discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity and hate speech in the media and by politicians (Kyrgyzstan);**

147.74 **Focus efforts on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, step up these efforts and efforts in the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups (Mali);**

147.75 **Take further measures to effectively curb racial profiling by law enforcement officers, the use of racist and hate speech by officials and politicians, and the dissemination of negative stereotypes and prejudices by some media outlets (Namibia);**

147.76 **Introduce a definition of discrimination into the Criminal Code in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Montenegro);**

147.77 **Continue with its efforts in countering racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Nigeria);**

147.78 **Amend anti-extremist legislation to effectively fight racism and xenophobia while avoiding unjustified human rights restrictions (Germany);**

147.79 **Continue actions and initiatives aimed at fighting racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, ethnic intolerance and neo-Nazism (Benin);**

147.80 **Continue its policy to fight racism by ensuring that all allegations of racist and xenophobic crimes are thoroughly investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted and exemplarily punished (Côte d'Ivoire);**

147.81 **Adopt a national strategy to prevent and combat hate speech (Honduras);**

147.82 **Adopt stringent measures to counter racist hate speech (South Africa);**

147.83 **Take additional steps to combat and prevent dissemination and propaganda of ideologies, supremacy ideas or theories based on race, ethnic, religious or social origin that justify or encourage any form of racial hatred and discrimination (Pakistan);**

147.84 **Continue to prevent acts of racial discrimination in sport and those acts targeting foreigners (Senegal);**

147.85 **Step up measures to combat racial discrimination, including by continuing efforts to prevent manifestations of racial discrimination in sport (Brazil);**

147.86 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, with the definition of all forms of discrimination in accordance with international standards (Slovenia);

147.87 Enhance the training of law enforcement agencies in countering racial discrimination and racial profiling (South Africa);

147.88 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law prohibiting discrimination on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);

147.89 Adopt anti-discrimination legislation encompassing all forms of discrimination and take measures to significantly reduce domestic violence (Germany);

147.90 Take concrete measures to combat all forms of discrimination, including when based on religion or belief and on sexual orientation, in compliance with international obligations (Italy);

147.91 Cease discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity (Georgia);

147.92 Look into measures to increase protection and support systems for victims of gender-based discrimination and domestic violence (Malaysia);

147.93 Continue efforts to harmonize gender equality for guaranteeing equal rights (Turkmenistan);

147.94 Take measures aimed at combating stereotypes that may promote discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation (Argentina);

147.95 Continue implementation of the national strategy on action for women with a view to promoting gender equality (India);

147.96 Take steps to effectively promote tolerance and prevent violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, ensure effective investigation of acts of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and hold those responsible to account (Netherlands);

147.97 Ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people are able to exercise their rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression without discrimination or fear of reprisals, and investigate promptly, effectively and impartially all allegations of abductions, secret imprisonment, torture and other ill-treatment, and killings of gay men in Chechnya (New Zealand);

147.98 Ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons can freely exercise their rights, and thoroughly investigate the anti-gay persecution in Chechnya while protecting the witnesses (Germany);

147.99 End the persecution of people perceived to be gay or bisexual (Iceland);

147.100 Take concrete action to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, including by repealing the law against "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" (Norway);

147.101 Continue providing international assistance for development (Syrian Arab Republic);

147.102 Share its experiences in implementing the strategy for the sustainable development of rural areas for the period up to 2030 and in human rights education and training for law enforcement officials (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

147.103 Step up its efforts to develop social and environmental impact assessments on the enjoyment of human rights prior to issuing licences for mining and exploitation of natural resources (Indonesia);

147.104 **Make efforts to review the definition of extremist activity for the proper application of the federal law combating extremist activity (Republic of Korea);**

147.105 **Strengthen the human rights perspective in the fight against terrorism (Peru);**

147.106 **Abolish the death penalty (Honduras);**

147.107 **Give due consideration to the legal abolition of the death penalty (Liechtenstein);**

147.108 **Take all the necessary steps to fully abolish the death penalty (Portugal);**

147.109 **Investigate cases of enforced disappearance, particularly in the North Caucasus, and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

147.110 **Ensure that all investigations into cases of abductions, unlawful detentions, torture and other ill-treatment, as well as killings, are conducted thoroughly and effectively (Austria);**

147.111 **Ensure independent and credible investigations of alleged human rights violations in the North Caucasus and hold accountable anyone found responsible (Australia);**

147.112 **Strengthen measures aimed at investigating allegations of enforced disappearances in the North Caucasus and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

147.113 **Investigate allegations of torture and inhuman treatment in custody in a transparent manner and bring those responsible to justice (Germany);**

147.114 **Intensify efforts to fight domestic violence (Italy);**

147.115 **Ratify the Istanbul Convention and repeal legislation that decriminalizes domestic violence (Estonia);**

147.116 **Continue efforts towards the adoption of a law against domestic violence (Saudi Arabia);**

147.117 **Enhance work to prevent and combat domestic violence (Kyrgyzstan);**

147.118 **Improve support services for victims of domestic violence, including access to psychosocial support, educational centres and shelters for victims (Maldives);**

147.119 **Adopt national legislation prohibiting all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and ensuring adequate care for victims (Mexico);**

147.120 **Enhance its efforts towards combating domestic violence and advancing women's empowerment (Myanmar);**

147.121 **Criminalize domestic violence and abolish the list of "prohibited professions", in order not to restrict the employment rights of women (Paraguay);**

147.122 **Strengthen measures to combat domestic violence, in particular gender-based violence, including through the adoption and implementation of specific legislation to ensure that cases of domestic violence are investigated and prosecuted (Rwanda);**

147.123 **Effectively investigate all cases of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and activists, including the violation of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly, and bring perpetrators to justice (Montenegro);**

147.124 Ensure the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights across the Russian Federation, including by investigating ongoing persecution of human rights activists and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in Chechnya (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

147.125 Investigate complaints of detention, torture and other ill-treatment committed against homosexuals in Chechnya, as well as taking the necessary measures to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);

147.126 Investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially instances of hate-based violence, including reports of mass detentions, torture and killings of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals in Chechnya in 2017 (Canada);

147.127 Investigate all reports of attacks on, or threats against, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, civil society activists and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and bring those responsible to justice (Norway);

147.128 Investigate attacks on members of civil society, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Chechnya, and bring perpetrators to justice while providing legal redress for victims (Lithuania);

147.129 Investigate repression against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including in Chechnya (Luxembourg);

147.130 Step up efforts to combat human trafficking and consider the possibility of developing a relevant national action plan (Qatar);

147.131 Immediately release Ukrainian citizens who have been unlawfully detained or sentenced (Ukraine);

147.132 Release all political prisoners held in the Russian Federation and occupied Crimea (United States of America);

147.133 Ensure that public detention monitoring committees are independent, adequately resourced and that their members are selected in a transparent manner (Switzerland);

147.134 Take measures to improve conditions of pretrial detention for suspected and accused women with children in the penitentiary system (Egypt);

147.135 Use the potential of non-governmental and religious organizations in solving the problems of persons released from places in which they have been deprived of liberty, and their effective integration into society (Islamic Republic of Iran);

147.136 Regarding illegally annexed Crimea, remove the Mejlis from the list of "extremist organizations", lift all restrictions imposed on its activities and immediately end the practice of sending Crimean prisoners to serve their sentences in the Russian Federation (Czechia);

147.137 Continue its efforts to upgrade its judicial system (Sudan);

147.138 Continue implementing reforms of the judicial system and of the administration of justice (Angola);

147.139 Continue improving the judicial system with the aim of ensuring the transparency of the courts and the access of all citizens to justice (Armenia);

147.140 Continue efforts to strengthen the proper functioning of the judicial system and ensure the right to a fair trial (Austria);

147.141 Respect the right to a fair trial and ensure effective remedies for alleged violations of due process (France);

147.142 **Continue the ongoing judicial system reform and strengthening of measures for the promotion of public confidence in the judicial system and openness to justice (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.143 **Continue efforts to further liberalize and humanize criminal legislation (Kazakhstan);**

147.144 **Redouble efforts to liberalize and humanize criminal legislation (Nicaragua);**

147.145 **Pursue efforts to enforce equally and without discrimination the legal provisions relevant to the protection of individuals and their public freedoms (Lebanon);**

147.146 **Continue to take further measures to tackle corruption (Japan);**

147.147 **Sustain its efforts and commitment to combat corruption (Nigeria);**

147.148 **Continue the efforts aimed at combating all forms of corruption and step up education programmes that raise awareness about this phenomenon (Qatar);**

147.149 **Demonstrate that the laws of the Russian Federation apply in Chechnya by investigating reports of torture and other human rights violations and abuses, and holding those responsible to account (United States of America);**

147.150 **End impunity for attacks on journalists and human rights activists, and ensure space for civil society and opposition politicians to operate without fear of reprisals (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

147.151 **Uphold the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people by amending article 282 of the Criminal Code, article 5.62 of the Code of Administrative Offences and article 3 of the Labour Code (New Zealand);**

147.152 **Ensure the exercise of political competition through free and fair elections, including equitable access to the political process (Canada);**

147.153 **Continue easing regulations on media coverage and Internet censorship in order to secure and facilitate the exercise of freedom of expression (Japan);**

147.154 **Ensure fully everyone's right to exercise freedom of expression (Estonia);**

147.155 **Strengthen human rights guarantees for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Peru);**

147.156 **Repeal legislation and regulations that limit the legitimate exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and belief (Norway);**

147.157 **Refrain from detaining participants of peaceful demonstrations and ensure that police officers who use excessive force against protesters are held accountable (Sweden);**

147.158 **End the practice of obstructing peaceful demonstrations by, under politically motivated pretexts, not granting them authorization (Sweden);**

147.159 **Ensure that anyone, including human rights defenders and journalists, can exercise their right to freedom of expression, including online, without fear of reprisal (Switzerland);**

147.160 **End its routine excessive banning of public assemblies and imposing excessive conditions regarding the place, time and manner of their conduct (Denmark);**

147.161 **Take the measures necessary to guarantee the full enjoyment of freedom of expression, in particular freedom of the press, and put an end to restrictions on access to some resources online (Luxembourg);**

147.162 Uphold the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, as enshrined in the Constitution (New Zealand);

147.163 Safeguard the freedom of association of all its people, as prescribed in the Constitution, including of journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders (Botswana);

147.164 Bring legislation governing public assemblies and its enforcement into conformity with international human rights standards (New Zealand);

147.165 Take all the necessary measures in order to respect the right to freedom of assembly, in line with its international obligations, including by repealing article 212.1 of the Criminal Code or by aligning it with international standards (Belgium);

147.166 Improve existing law and practice to guarantee freedom of expression, freedom of the media, and the safety of journalists (Poland);

147.167 Guarantee freedom of expression, particularly online, as well as freedom of the media (France);

147.168 Implement recommendations relating to the freedom of the press and information accepted during the last cycle of the universal periodic review (Georgia);

147.169 Continue efforts to protect journalists from violence and intimidation and intensify cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Representative on Freedom of the Media (Austria);

147.170 Ensure that cases of violence and intimidation against independent journalists are independently investigated and that their perpetrators are effectively brought to justice (Belgium);

147.171 Prevent and investigate beatings, threats and trials based on dubious charges of human rights defenders, journalists, political actors and civil society (Canada);

147.172 Establish institutional mechanisms for the prevention, protection and investigation of acts of intimidation, violence and reprisals that may target journalists and human rights defenders (Costa Rica);

147.173 Ensure effective and impartial investigations by the law enforcement authorities aimed at preventing and combating offences against journalists and human rights defenders, with a view to holding the perpetrators accountable (Romania);

147.174 Release all journalists detained on politically motivated charges or sentenced for expressing critical or dissenting views, including about political events or the status of illegally annexed Crimea (Slovakia);

147.175 Take effective and credible measures to protect and facilitate the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of association (Slovakia);

147.176 Bring legislation governing public assemblies and its enforcement into conformity with international human rights standards, particularly ensuring that any sanctions for violations of freedom of assembly do not create undue obstacles to freedom of assembly and expression (Slovenia);

147.177 Ensure that NGOs can work free of threats and intimidation and ensure equal participation in political and public affairs by all stakeholders, including NGOs (Slovakia);

147.178 Cease restricting civil society and NGOs (Georgia);

147.179 Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, particularly in the North Caucasus (France);

147.180 **Guarantee the effective exercise of freedom of assembly and association to allow human rights defenders and political activists to do their work (Luxembourg);**

147.181 **Take measures to enlarge the space for civil society, in particular to review relevant legal provisions (Republic of Korea);**

147.182 **Continue and strengthen its meaningful engagement with civil society in implementing universal periodic review recommendations and safeguarding human rights (Myanmar);**

147.183 **Ensure the unrestricted work of civil society and repeal the "foreign agents" law as well as the law on "undesirable organizations" (Czechia);**

147.184 **Review the current restrictive legal framework, especially the laws on foreign agents, undesirable organizations and extremism (Estonia);**

147.185 **Ensure that the federal law on combating extremist activity is not arbitrarily used to limit freedom of expression (Czechia);**

147.186 **Bring the laws on "foreign agents" and "undesirable organizations" in line with its international obligations and ensure that civil society can receive support from partners abroad (Germany);**

147.187 **Repeal the "foreign agents" law and the law on "undesirable" organizations (Iceland);**

147.188 **Revise the laws on "foreign agents" and "undesirable organizations" to ensure that NGOs and media organizations can exercise their legitimate activities in line with international law and human rights standards (Ireland);**

147.189 **Repeal the law on "undesirable organizations" (France);**

147.190 **Consider the revision of the current legislation on "combating extremism" and on "foreign agents", so as to define more precisely the limitations to fundamental freedoms in compliance with international obligations (Italy);**

147.191 **Review its legislation regulating the functioning of NGOs, in particular the federal law on non-commercial organizations and the federal law on undesirable organizations, and bring it into accordance with international human rights law, as previously recommended (Finland);**

147.192 **Repeal legislation under which NGOs can be declared "foreign agents" and "undesirable" organizations (New Zealand);**

147.193 **Repeal the laws on "foreign agents" and "undesirable" organizations (Lithuania);**

147.194 **Revise the so-called "foreign agent" law and take all the necessary steps to ensure that civil society organizations, including the media, can exercise their activities without fear of stigmatization or punishment by law (Netherlands);**

147.195 **Review the legislation on the functioning of non-governmental organizations, such as law No. 121 on non-commercial organizations, and ensure its compliance with international human rights practices and standards (Mexico);**

147.196 **Implement programmes aimed at eliminating the restrictive environment in which NGOs and civil society organizations that promote human rights and diversity in political opinion act (Romania);**

147.197 **Continue to take steps to strengthen cooperation and coordination between State authorities and civil society institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights (Philippines);**

147.198 **Strengthen the yearly award grants from the federal budget for socially important projects in the print and electronic media (Ethiopia);**

147.199 **Uphold the rights to freedom of conscience and religion by refraining from outlawing religious groups as "extremist" solely for the peaceful practice of their religious beliefs, such as has happened with Jehovah's Witnesses (New Zealand);**

147.200 **Reconsider the recent outlawing of the Jehovah Witnesses and stop their persecution (Spain);**

147.201 **End the targeting of Jehovah's Witnesses for exercising their freedom of religion (Iceland);**

147.202 **Respect its international obligations and amend its legislation to ensure the right to the peaceful enjoyment of freedom of religion and belief for adherents of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Russian Federation (Denmark);**

147.203 **Refrain from banning religious groups on the grounds of extremism, even though they practise their religious belief in a peaceful way, and also withdraw administrative accusations and criminal accusations against their members (Luxembourg);**

147.204 **Refrain from outlawing religious groups as "extremist" and ensure them the right to fully practise their religion or belief (Finland);**

147.205 **Repeal the 2013 law which criminalizes "insult to the religious feelings of believers" (France);**

147.206 **Observe constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion and ensure religious groups are not subject to discrimination (Australia);**

147.207 **Step up efforts to promote and protect freedom of religion or belief, including by ensuring the freedom of all individuals to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions (Brazil);**

147.208 **Take further steps to address human trafficking, including through strengthened international cooperation, and enhance efforts to provide assistance to victims of human trafficking (Sri Lanka);**

147.209 **Continue taking active national and international measures against trafficking in human being (Belarus);**

147.210 **Make further efforts to fight organized crime, including the fight against trafficking in human beings (Armenia);**

147.211 **Take further measures to effectively combat trafficking in human beings, especially regarding vulnerable groups such as women and children, and improve assistance to the victims of trafficking (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

147.212 **Introduce a national action plan on human trafficking (Bahrain);**

147.213 **Continue the efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

147.214 **Continue to provide support to the traditional family and contribute to international efforts in the promotion and preservation of traditional ethical and family values (Egypt);**

147.215 **Ensure the implementation of measures provided by the framework for the State family policy of the Russian Federation up to 2025 (Belarus);**

147.216 **Introduce nationwide social security for its population (Nicaragua);**

147.217 **Introduce a social security system for its citizens (Cuba);**

147.218 **Strengthen ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring the implementation of the economic, social and cultural rights of its citizens (Cuba);**

147.219 **Continue efforts aimed at unemployment reduction, inter alia, by improving relevant training programmes (Egypt);**

147.220 **Take measures to promote equal opportunities for men and women in terms of employment and occupation at all levels of responsibility (Algeria);**

147.221 **Invest efforts in decreasing the unemployment rate among young people in rural parts of the country (Serbia);**

147.222 **Continue promoting policies to increase job opportunities for young people in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

147.223 **Continue to take active policy measures to enhance employment, in particular to raise the youth employment rate in rural and remote areas (China);**

147.224 **Continue implementing targeted social support policies aimed at reducing poverty and enhancing the labour prospects of its citizens (Singapore);**

147.225 **Continue to take appropriate measures to increase people's income and promote poverty reduction (China);**

147.226 **Continue to take measures to ensure social equality and to reduce gaps in terms of the well-being of the population in urban and rural areas (Uzbekistan);**

147.227 **Continue to vigorously develop its health care to increase life expectancy (China);**

147.228 **Strengthen programmes aimed at promoting the right of individuals to the highest attainable level of physical and mental health, especially those aimed at reducing the consumption of tobacco and alcohol (Syrian Arab Republic);**

147.229 **Prohibit non-consensual medical interventions performed on intersex people until the person in question is old enough to grant their free and informed consent, unless the intervention is absolutely necessary for the development of their vital functions (Spain);**

147.230 **Continue taking measures to improve and facilitate access to health services in remote and rural areas (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.231 **Continue to take appropriate measures to reduce levels of cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption as part of the advancement of programmes promoting the right of every person to the highest attainable level of physical and mental health (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

147.232 **Implement the necessary steps to guarantee children access to basic and free education, particularly those from rural areas and vulnerable groups (State of Palestine);**

147.233 **Continue efforts to facilitate children's access to free basic education, especially those in rural areas and from disadvantaged groups (Algeria);**

147.234 **Ensure universal access to quality education (Philippines);**

147.235 **Endorse the Safe Schools Declaration and its guidelines (Argentina);**

147.236 **Consider taking measures aimed at increasing the efficiency and accountability of the public service delivery system in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (Azerbaijan);**

147.237 **Strengthen the legal framework to combat human trafficking, which affects women and children in particular (Poland);**

147.238 **Take all necessary measures to prevent violence and intolerance against women, whether racist, xenophobic or based on sexual orientation,**

guaranteeing the rights of each and every one of them without discrimination (Switzerland);

147.239 **Continue efforts aimed at combating discrimination against women and fighting violence against them (Tunisia);**

147.240 **Strengthen governmental measures to eliminate violence against women and girls (Chile);**

147.241 **Take effective steps to address domestic and sexual violence against women and girls, including through ensuring all perpetrators are prosecuted and punished (Botswana);**

147.242 **Take all necessary measures to investigate allegations of domestic violence and prosecute perpetrators of this violence (Burkina Faso);**

147.243 **Continue efforts to protect women's rights and to prevent domestic violence (Viet Nam);**

147.244 **Redouble efforts to eradicate violence against women, particularly domestic and sexual violence (Peru);**

147.245 **Develop a comprehensive framework for the elimination of sexual and domestic violence against women and children (Cyprus);**

147.246 **Continue its efforts to ensure access to justice for women and girls who have been victims of domestic and sexual violence (Gabon);**

147.247 **Continue to take effective steps aimed at combating violence against women (Romania);**

147.248 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination against women at all levels (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

147.249 **Enact and implement measures to promote and protect gender equality and women's empowerment and to fight discrimination on the grounds of gender (Brazil);**

147.250 **Implement measures to combat discrimination and violence against women, developing strategies to eradicate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society (Uruguay);**

147.251 **Take the necessary measures to combat stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society (Afghanistan);**

147.252 **Fully implement the 2017–2022 national strategy on action for women in order to prevent violence against women, address gender stereotypes and guarantee women's full and equal participation in decision-making (Namibia);**

147.253 **Keep up its efforts in implementing the national strategy on action for women 2017–2022 to create the conditions for the full participation of women in political, economic, social and cultural spheres of life (Bangladesh);**

147.254 **Continue its efforts to implement the national strategy on action for women for the period 2017–2022, which aims to create the conditions for the full and equal participation of women in the political, economic, social and cultural domains of social life (Sudan);**

147.255 **Promote the implementation of the national agenda 2021 with a special focus on supporting the participation of women in public life (United Arab Emirates);**

147.256 **Continue to take effective measures to promote women's rights and their political participation in decision-making (Nepal);**

147.257 Implement programmes to enhance women's awareness of their rights and the remedies available to them to protect their rights (Philippines);

147.258 Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for the full and effective implementation of the national strategy on action for women (Singapore);

147.259 Make efforts to eliminate gender-based stereotypes that restrict women's education and social participation (Republic of Korea);

147.260 Strengthen labour legislation with a view to mainstreaming the gender perspective and ensuring that such legislation does not discriminate against women in their professional careers (Mexico);

147.261 Continue efforts to promote women's access to the labour market (Iraq);

147.262 Take concrete measures in order to put an end to discrimination against women, especially by abolishing the list of professional occupations which are prohibited to them (Belgium);

147.263 Repeal the list of professions prohibited for women and ratify the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe (France);

147.264 Strengthen measures aimed at promoting equal opportunities for men and women in terms of employment and profession (Côte d'Ivoire);

147.265 Continue implementing policies aimed at creating the conditions for the full and equal participation of women in society (Angola);

147.266 Ensure access for all women and girls, in particular in rural areas, to basic health-care services (Afghanistan);

147.267 Continue its efforts aimed at the elimination of child labour (Azerbaijan);

147.268 Step up work to combat trafficking in children and their sexual exploitation (Kyrgyzstan);

147.269 Take measures to ensure the elimination of the sale and trafficking of children, through investigations and robust prosecutions of persons engaging in those crimes, as well as the provision of rehabilitation and social reintegration of child victims of trafficking (Thailand);

147.270 Strengthen efforts to provide for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of child victims of trafficking (Maldives);

147.271 Continue efforts to protect children from violence and sexual exploitation (Tunisia);

147.272 Pursue efforts to combat the exploitation and sexual abuse of children (Peru);

147.273 Continue the efforts to prevent all forms of violence against children and adolescents, including sexual abuse of minors, and ensure their access to justice and reparation (Ecuador);

147.274 Continue to provide the necessary support and opportunities for children to enjoy their full human rights (Lao People's Democratic Republic);

147.275 Continue to consolidate actions and programmes aimed at the promotion and protection of the rights of the child (Sri Lanka);

147.276 Continue efforts to protect the rights of children (Malaysia);

147.277 Effectively provide the Office for the Commissioner for Children's Rights with adequate resources in order to promote and protect all children's rights (Namibia);

147.278 **Continue efforts to provide State support to families with children and improve their living conditions, including through increasing pensions (Pakistan);**

147.279 **Put an end to corporal punishment towards children in any form and in any area of society, and promote non-violent alternatives as disciplinary measures (Uruguay);**

147.280 **Enact legislation in order to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);**

147.281 **Continue to work towards reducing the number of children, including children with disabilities, living in child-care institutions. Focus on supporting parents in fulfilling their responsibilities in respect of their children (Egypt);**

147.282 **Further improve mechanisms for the prevention of dissemination of information inciting children to commit an offence that endangers human life and health (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

147.283 **Continue ongoing efforts aimed at ensuring the realization of the rights of children to preschool education (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

147.284 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of children, persons with disabilities, elderly people and other vulnerable groups (Bulgaria);**

147.285 **Continue to assist and promote the employment of persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

147.286 **Prioritize promoting and protecting the rights of people with disabilities (South Africa);**

147.287 **Enhance legal frameworks and social programmes serving the most vulnerable groups, particularly children within their families and persons with disabilities (Lebanon);**

147.288 **Continue to take measures to provide social assistance to the population, in particular persons with disabilities, retired people, children and women (Libya);**

147.289 **Continue to ensure the education, social adaptation and social integration of children with disabilities (Pakistan);**

147.290 **Review and enhance the system of support available to families of persons with disabilities (Cyprus);**

147.291 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, including by expediting the adoption of the draft federal law, and provide wheelchair users with the unequivocal right to unhindered access to apartment buildings (Hungary);**

147.292 **Continue to take measures to defend the rights of elderly people and people with disabilities (Uzbekistan),**

147.293 **Step up efforts to promote and preserve the languages of indigenous peoples, including through the education system and via the adoption of relevant measures to safeguard intangible cultural heritage (Nicaragua);**

147.294 **Strengthen the legal framework to ensure the sustainable socioeconomic and cultural development of indigenous peoples (South Africa);**

147.295 **Continue to actively involve the representatives of indigenous peoples in international activities relating to the protection of their rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

147.296 **Continue strengthening policies for the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

147.297 **Improve the precarious situation of indigenous peoples (Estonia);**

147.298 Harmonize the various laws on the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly regarding access to land and natural resources, and pay specific attention to the protection of their natural environment (Hungary);

147.299 Take further concrete and effective steps towards the protection and social inclusion of all minority groups (Malaysia);

147.300 Take additional measures to decrease statelessness among representatives of minority groups (Serbia);

147.301 Continue extending social support measures and benefits to minorities (India);

147.302 Continue to provide support to all of its ethnic minorities in preserving their languages, cultures and traditions (Indonesia);

147.303 Continue measures for the elimination of discrimination against the Roma population (Peru);

147.304 Take further measures to enhance the integration of migrants (Viet Nam);

147.305 Strengthen the implementation of policies to reduce the number of unregistered persons, especially stateless persons, refugees, holders of temporary residence permits and individuals belonging to certain minority groups (Angola);

147.306 Step up efforts to end statelessness, especially by establishing safeguards to guarantee birth registration to all children born in the country, including stateless children and those belonging to minority groups (Thailand);

147.307 Use its influence to facilitate unimpeded access by international observers to Crimea, eastern Ukraine and the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia (Australia);

147.308 Implement the relevant General Assembly resolutions on the territorial integrity of Ukraine and on Crimea (Ukraine);

147.309 Repeal laws of the Russian Federation imposed in occupied Crimea and respect the laws in force in Ukraine (Ukraine).

148. In the view of the Russian Federation, the recommendations listed below are not relevant since they are not factually correct, fully or partially, and do not comply with the basis of the review stipulated by the Human Rights Council in its resolutions 5/1 and 16/21. They will therefore not be considered by the Russian Federation:

148.1 Grant international human rights monitoring bodies full access to all federal subjects of the Russian Federation and territories under its effective control (Norway);

148.2 End legal and political restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly against all persons, including Crimean Tatars in the illegally annexed Crimea and in Ukrainian territories under control of armed groups backed by the Russian Federation (Lithuania);

148.3 Provide free and unimpeded access for all international human rights mechanisms to Ukraine's Crimea and Donbas, as well as to Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali (Lithuania);

148.4 Cease violations of the human rights of the population living in Georgian regions under the Russian Federation's effective control (Georgia);

148.5 Provide full and unconditional access to OHCHR and other relevant human rights monitoring mechanisms to Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions (Georgia);

148.6 Uphold all its obligations under applicable international law as an occupying power in the illegally occupied territories (Ukraine);

148.7 **Fulfil all interim measures issued by the European Court of Human Rights in the cases regarding human rights violations in the occupied Crimea and Donbas (Ukraine);**

148.8 **End its illegal occupation of Crimea and end its support for separatist groups in eastern Ukraine and the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia (Australia).**

149. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the Russian Federation was headed by H.E. Mr. Alexander Konovalov, Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Alexander Konovalov, Head of the Delegation, Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Mikhail Galperin, Deputy Head of the Delegation, Representative of the Russian Federation at the European Court of Human Rights — Deputy Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation;
- H.E. Mr. Gennady Gatilov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Sergey Antipov — Head's Assistant, Main Directorate of the Military Police, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Natalia Antonova, Deputy Director, Department of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Oksana Anufrieva, Assistant, Legal Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Veronika Ataulina, Deputy Head of Section, Administration of the Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Valery Boyarinev, Deputy Director, Federal Penal Correction Service;
- Ms. Ekaterina Dobrodeeva, Head of Section, Department for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Businesses and Competition, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Oleg Dun, Senior Prosecutor, General Department for Criminal Court Proceedings, Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Abdulgamid Bulatov, Head of Division, Federal Agency on Ethnic Affairs;
- Mr. Aleksei Goltiaev, Senior Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Artem Kiryanov, First Vice-President, Commission on Public Control, Public Expert Examination, and Cooperation with Public Councils, Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Vitaly Kokh, Deputy Head, Main Directorate of the Military Police, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Marina Korunova, Deputy Director, Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Olga Kuksina, Assistant, International Department, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Anna Kuznetsova, Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Yuriy Martynov, Senior Expert, Main Directorate of the Military Police, Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Yuriy Mikheev, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;

- Ms. Olga Savina, Senior Expert, General Administration for Protection of Public Order and Interaction with Executive Authorities of the Russian Federation Constituent Territories, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Julia Shekhovtsova, First Deputy Head, General Department for Criminal Court Proceedings, Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Tatiana Shlychkova, Head of Section, Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Evgeny Silyanov, Director, Department of the State Policy in the Sphere of Children's Rights Protection, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Pavel Smirnov, Assistant, Office of the Representative of the Russian Federation at the European Court of Human Rights – Deputy Minister of Justice of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Svetlana Solovyeva, Director, Legal Department, Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Andrey Timofeev, Deputy Head, Main Organizational and Inspections Department, Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Alexey Tsygankov, Deputy Director, Department of Government Policy in the Sport Area and International Cooperation, Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Nigina Umarova, Head of Section, Legal Department, Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Evgeny Ustinov, Counsellor, Department for Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- Ms. Larisa Vertaeva, Head of Section, Office of the Children's Rights Commissioner for the President of the Russian Federation;
- Mr. Dmitry Vorobiev, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Nikita Zhukov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Maria Zinovieva, Senior Expert, Department of Economic Law, Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Azerbaijan

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its thirtieth session from 7 to 18 May 2018. The review of Azerbaijan was held at the 13th meeting, on 15 May 2018. The delegation of Azerbaijan was headed by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Khalaf Khalafov. At its 17th meeting, held on 17 May 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Azerbaijan.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Azerbaijan: Ecuador, Slovenia and United Arab Emirates.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Azerbaijan:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/AZE/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/AZE/2 and Corr.1);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/30/AZE/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay was transmitted to Azerbaijan through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Azerbaijan noted that the universal periodic review was an effective format for consideration of the third national report of Azerbaijan, enabling the country to provide full information on the activities carried out and measures taken for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the promotion of dialogue and the sharing of experience.

6. Azerbaijan was a party to the main international legal instruments in the field of human rights and regularly submitted reports to the relevant United Nations treaty bodies on their implementation. At the Council's thirty-fifth session, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had cited Azerbaijan among the 34 countries that had fulfilled their reporting obligations in a timely manner. Azerbaijan was also among the 15 countries that had submitted midterm reports on the first two cycles of the universal periodic review.

7. Azerbaijan had sent a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders, recognizing their important role in facilitating cooperation and dialogue with Member States.

8. As a result of a referendum held in 2016, amendments had been made to the Constitution aimed at further strengthening the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the formation of an effective and flexible mechanism of public administration and ensuring the effectiveness of economic reforms.

9. In 2017, the Presidential decree on improving the efficiency of the penitentiary system had been signed. The decree aimed at developing the penitentiary system through the humanization of penal policy and also ensured the application of complex institutional, legislative and practical measures for the liberalization of criminal law policy, including the

restriction of arrests and deprivations of liberty and the decriminalization of a number of crimes.

10. The institutions of pardon and amnesty had also been widely used in Azerbaijan during the reporting period. In total, the President had issued nine acts of pardon, which had been applied to 1,378 convicts, and the parliament had approved two Acts of Amnesty, which had been applied to about 21,000 people.

11. In order to support the development of the legal profession, on 22 February 2018 the President had signed a decree on additional measures to develop legal practice in the country. The decree envisaged measures to improve material and technical support for lawyers' organizations throughout the country, the admission of new members through regular bar exams and the development of professional training and qualifications for lawyers with a view to improving the quality of legal services.

12. The fight against corruption was one of the Government's priorities. The National Action Plan for Open Government 2016–2018 had been approved by Presidential decree on 27 April 2016. The Plan sought to improve anti-corruption legislation, raise awareness of citizens in the fight against corruption, enhance the engagement of civil society organizations and develop proposals for establishing corruption-related crimes.

13. The State Agency for Services and Social Innovations continued to widen the scope of its activities in the efficient delivery of public services and social innovations to citizens. From 2013 to the present, the centres in the Agency's network had received more than 20 million applications, with a satisfaction rate of 98 to 100 per cent among the population. A number of States had expressed interest in learning from the experience of the State Agency and applying that model in their countries.

14. There were currently more than 5,000 media outlets in the country. About 80 per cent of the Azerbaijani population had unhindered access to the Internet, which had become the most popular and practical means of information and media communication. The Presidential State Fund to Support the Development of the Media continued to carry out its activities effectively.

15. The State worked in partnership with representatives of civil society. More than 3,254 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had been registered in Azerbaijan, 500 of which were dedicated to human rights protection. In 2017, the Presidential Council on State Support for NGOs had financed 484 NGO projects at a cost of over 3 million manats.

16. The International Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, also known as the "Baku Process", had been established by the President in 2008 as a platform for coordinating international efforts to strengthen tolerance and mutual understanding and combat discrimination, extremism and xenophobia in society. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation was also making a major contribution to the development of multiculturalism and tolerance in the country.

17. As a result of the successful implementation of measures envisaged in socioeconomic development policy documents adopted in the reporting period, including "Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future" and the strategic road maps for the national economy and the main sectors of the economy adopted in 2016, a noticeable reduction in the unemployment rate had been achieved, social protection for the unemployed had been strengthened, favourable conditions had been created for improving the labour market and competitiveness had been enhanced.

18. Over the past five years, the gross domestic product (GDP) had increased by 1.1 times, including an increase of 2.2 times in the non-oil sector, and 1.4 times for household incomes. During the period the non-oil industry had increased 2.2 times, agriculture 1.2 times, trade 1.4 times, tourism 1.7 times, transport 1.2 times and communication 1.5 times.

19. Azerbaijan supported the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Most of the guidelines and directions of the development concept "Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future" and the strategic road maps for the national economy and the main sectors of the economy were identical to those in the 2030 Agenda. The National Coordinating Council on Sustainable Development had been established in 2016.

20. The Government of Azerbaijan continued to implement a number of comprehensive measures aimed at improving the socioeconomic situation of refugees and internally displaced persons and their temporary integration into society, bearing in mind the necessity of the future realization of their right to a safe and dignified return to their native lands.

21. Over the past 24 years, about 6.6 billion manats had been allocated for the social protection of refugees and internally displaced persons. Some 2,000 internally displaced persons had received preferential loans totalling 44 million manats to fund businesses through the National Entrepreneurship Support Fund. As a result, the poverty level among refugees and internally displaced persons had decreased from 75 to 12 per cent.

22. Internally displaced persons were exempted from paying communal and other utility services and tuition fees were waived for those studying in State higher and secondary educational institutions.

23. Occupation by Armenia of 20 per cent of the territory of Azerbaijan, including the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven adjacent regions, was one of the main obstacles to the full-fledged realization of human rights in the country. During the armed aggression, Armenia had committed grave violations of international humanitarian law, including extrajudicial executions of Azerbaijani civilians, hostages and prisoners of war, subjecting them to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. The material damage caused to Azerbaijan as a result of the occupation was estimated at $818 billion.

24. Armenia raised four points of order, in which it stated that the information and specific facts provided by Azerbaijan were incorrect and did not meet the review requirements. The Working Group was not competent to discuss political or conflict-related issues. Azerbaijan was trying to use the review procedure to voice its own perception of the conflict with the aim of undermining the rights of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh to self-determination, which Azerbaijan falsely presented as an issue of the restoration of its territorial integrity. The international community, including the United Nations, recognized that the only internationally mandated format for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Armenia therefore rejected any reference to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and misinterpretations contained in the national report and during the oral presentation by Azerbaijan. Attempts to present Armenia as an aggressor by referring to United Nations Security Council resolutions were completely false and constituted a blatant manipulation of their content.

25. The President of the Human Rights Council ruled that it was appropriate for all delegations to make comments and observations and to voice their opinion on human rights issues; the State under review was entitled to express its views. The universal periodic review process did not, however, aim to discuss or settle disputes among Member States. Bilateral issues should not interfere in discussions, and such issues should not be raised in the Working Group.

26. In response to the points of order raised by Armenia, Azerbaijan stated that it was not engaging in polemical discussion; rather, it emphasized the historical facts, namely the occupation of Azerbaijani territories by Armenia accompanied by ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis from the occupied territories, which had led to the mass violation of the human rights of Azerbaijanis and had impeded the full realization of human rights within the country. There were still some Azerbaijani nationals in Armenia who had been taken hostage by that country when they were visiting the graves of their ancestors in the occupied territories. The wounds of genocide committed by Armenia in the Khojaly district of Azerbaijan, which had resulted in the killing of around 700 Azerbaijanis, including children, women and elderly people, had not yet healed. Azerbaijan urged Armenia to comply with Security Council resolutions, which called for the complete liberation of Azerbaijani territories and the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons to their native lands. Azerbaijan called on Armenia to abide by international humanitarian law and to stop ceasefire violations that had caused an increased number of casualties among the civilian population of Azerbaijan living in settlements adjacent to the line of contact. The only solution to the conflict would be the withdrawal of Armenian forces from the

occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan hoped that the international community would exert pressure on Armenia to liberate the occupied territories and to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes against Azerbaijanis.

27. Azerbaijan further stressed that it was in a particular situation, with 20 per cent of its territories under the occupation of Armenia. Armenia as an aggressor State had to be held accountable for its aggression against Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan was a peace-loving nation and, unlike Armenia, it did not have any territorial claims against any of its neighbours. Azerbaijan would never allow the creation of the second Armenian state in the territory of Azerbaijan.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

28. During the interactive dialogue, 105 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

29. The Russian Federation noted efforts to support the independence of the media and to strengthen intercultural dialogue, especially through the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

30. Rwanda encouraged Azerbaijan to enhance measures and policies to address discrimination on all grounds, including through strengthened implementation of existing legislation.

31. Saudi Arabia commended efforts to improve anti-corruption legislation and to strengthen the work of civil society.

32. Serbia welcomed the National Action Plan for Open Government 2016–2018, and the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2014–2018.

33. Singapore welcomed the National Action Plan for Open Government 2016–2018, and the increasing State spending on education and the active promotion of good governance.

34. Slovakia expressed concern about reports of the torture and ill-treatment of journalists and human rights defenders.

35. Slovenia regretted the alleged lack of independence of the Bar Association, and noted reports of harassment and threats against independent lawyers.

36. Spain expressed concern about limitations on the effective enjoyment of freedom of religion for "non-traditional" religious organizations.

37. Sri Lanka welcomed measures related to the right to health, and the steps taken to promote dialogue with civil society.

38. The State of Palestine remained concerned at persisting poverty. It acknowledged measures to protect human rights defenders and journalists.

39. The Sudan welcomed the National Action Plan for Open Government 2016–2018 and anti-corruption legislation.

40. Sweden wished Azerbaijan success in implementing the review recommendations.

41. Switzerland expressed concern about reports of harassment, intimidation and prosecution of opposition representatives, journalists and human rights defenders.

42. Tajikistan made recommendations.

43. Thailand welcomed steps to promote gender equality and efforts to improve prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners.

44. Togo welcomed efforts to strengthen the protection of human rights, particularly through the 2016 constitutional reform.

45. Tunisia welcomed efforts to enhance the legal framework, modernize the prison system and combat human trafficking.

46. Turkey welcomed efforts to support internally displaced persons and refugees.

47. Turkmenistan welcomed improvements in the quality of public services through innovative methods and the establishment of the State Agency for Services and Social Innovations network.

48. Ukraine noted that the ability of Azerbaijan to implement human rights treaties had been impeded since some of its territories were not under its control.

49. The United Arab Emirates welcomed reforms introduced by the 2016 constitutional amendment, particularly measures aimed at bolstering the institutional and legal framework.

50. The United Kingdom expressed concern about restrictions on freedoms of the press and of assembly, the independence of the judiciary and the harassment of human rights defenders.

51. The United States stated that, as a result of restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and assembly, political and civic spaces were severely constrained.

52. Uruguay welcomed the cooperation of Azerbaijan with treaty bodies and special procedures, and the process to reform legislation on children's rights.

53. Uzbekistan praised consistent efforts to protect human rights and to cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

54. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the cooperation of Azerbaijan with treaty bodies and the reforms to improve the standard of living of its population.

55. Viet Nam recognized the progress achieved through the constitutional amendment, which aimed at providing more effective protection of human rights.

56. Yemen welcomed the standing invitation of Azerbaijan to all special procedure mandate holders, and steps to harmonize domestic legislation with international obligations.

57. Zimbabwe highlighted measures aimed at guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of different categories of the population, such as prisoners, refugees and internally displaced persons.

58. Afghanistan welcomed the standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

59. Algeria welcomed measures to promote the values of tolerance and multiculturalism in society, and to guarantee the independence of the judiciary.

60. Angola welcomed the improvements made in bringing national legislation into line with international human rights standards.

61. Argentina welcomed the standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

62. Armenia shared the concerns raised by different human rights mechanisms about the deteriorating human rights situation since the previous review.

63. Australia welcomed efforts to strengthen legal protection of human rights, including through laws to combat human trafficking and forced marriage.

64. Austria urged Azerbaijan to continue collaborating with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association to organize a country visit in the near future.

65. Bahrain welcomed efforts to improve human rights, including a "one-stop" model for public service delivery.

66. Bangladesh appreciated the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2014–2018 and initiatives to promote multiculturalism and the country's commitment to ensure gender equality.

67. Belarus welcomed the active cooperation of Azerbaijan with the treaty bodies and the adoption of laws and regulations to strengthen human rights protection.

68. Belgium welcomed the country's tradition of religious tolerance.

69. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed advances in drinking water supply and the increase in public investment in health and education.

70. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the standing invitation to special procedures. It expressed concern about the underrepresentation of women in political and public life.

71. Brazil expressed concern about the alleged violations of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

72. Brunei Darussalam commended Azerbaijan on the programme for the development of inclusive education for persons with disabilities, and acknowledged measures to improve the health-care system.

73. Bulgaria noted consistent policy measures to guarantee equality between women and men, the rights of the child and the rights of persons with disabilities.

74. Burundi welcomed the National Action Plan for the Improvement of the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

75. Cambodia welcomed the achievements of the socioeconomic development plan.

76. Canada encouraged Azerbaijan to strengthen protections for civil society, women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and expressed concern about the administrative burden on NGOs.

77. Chile welcomed the ratification of treaties by Azerbaijan. It expressed concern about limitations on the freedom of association, despite recommendations accepted during the previous review cycle.

78. China welcomed the efforts and achievements of Azerbaijan with regard to improving the living standards of its people, fighting against corruption, promoting gender equality, combating human trafficking and protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

79. Côte d'Ivoire urged Azerbaijan to strengthen its legislative framework to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights, especially for women, children, persons with disabilities and migrants.

80. Croatia welcomed the approval of the State Programme for the Development of Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities 2018–2024.

81. Cuba highlighted measures to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and to improve the functioning of the courts and the judicial infrastructure.

82. Cyprus remained deeply concerned about the challenges and restrictions faced by journalists, human rights defenders and youth activists.

83. Czechia acknowledged the religious tolerance and cooperative approach towards international observers during the 2018 presidential elections.

84. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended Azerbaijan on its progress in international cooperation and the promotion of the human rights of its citizens.

85. Djibouti welcomed the ratification of Protocol No. 14 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, amending the control system of the Convention, and the Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption.

86. Ecuador welcomed the excellent record of Azerbaijan in reporting to treaty bodies, and its leadership in the promotion of transparent, accountable and efficient public services.

87. Egypt welcomed the cooperation of Azerbaijan with international human rights mechanisms and its efforts to enhance the independence of the judiciary.

88. Estonia acknowledged the increased cooperation of Azerbaijan with the United Nations human rights system and encouraged it to take further steps to promote free expression.

89. France made recommendations.

90. Gabon welcomed efforts to promote gender equality, to combat domestic violence and to create assistance centres for victims of domestic violence.

91. Georgia welcomed the ratification of international legal instruments and steps to issue standing invitations to all special procedure mandate holders.

92. Germany welcomed efforts to improve the socioeconomic conditions of internally displaced persons, and remained concerned about the ongoing repression of civil society.

93. Ghana welcomed efforts to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and encouraged Azerbaijan to continue with its positive initiatives.

94. Greece noted some positive steps taken by Azerbaijan, including the country visits of special rapporteurs during the period under review.

95. Honduras welcomed actions to reduce poverty and progress in the area of education, in particular for women and girls.

96. Hungary called upon the Government to continue to combat human trafficking.

97. Iceland welcomed the reform of the education system and took positive note of the growth in the literacy rate.

98. India appreciated measures to improve health-care facilities, and welcomed efforts to ensure gender parity in secondary and tertiary education.

99. Indonesia welcomed initiatives to ensure employment, housing and education for all, and efforts to address domestic violence and protect children's rights.

100. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the raising of public awareness and the launching of training courses on human rights for officials and professionals.

101. Iraq praised efforts to harmonize national laws with international obligations, and welcomed the standing invitation for special procedure mandate holders.

102. Ireland remained concerned about unduly restrictive legislation governing the functioning of civil society and reports of the ill-treatment of human rights defenders and journalists.

103. Italy welcomed the commitment of Azerbaijan to promoting the peaceful coexistence of persons belonging to different religions or beliefs.

104. Jordan welcomed the efforts of Azerbaijan to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to align its national reporting with the Sustainable Development Goal process.

105. Kazakhstan appreciated measures to combat human trafficking, to strengthen social policies and to modernize the judicial and penitentiary systems.

106. Kenya called on Azerbaijan to improve the situation of migrants, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and minorities by facilitating access to education, labour, housing and health care, and to improve children's rights by eradicating child marriage.

107. Kuwait welcomed the commitment of Azerbaijan to the promotion of human rights and sustainable development.

108. Kyrgyzstan praised achievements in the socioeconomic area and legislative measures, including changes in the Constitution.

109. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed efforts to support the Women's Association for Rational Development.

110. Lebanon welcomed the efforts of Azerbaijan to comply with its international obligations, and its cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

111. Libya positively noted the achievements made, particularly the ratification of a number of international treaties.

112. Malaysia welcomed the efforts of Azerbaijan to incorporate the provisions of the human rights conventions to which it was a party into its national legislation and to combat human trafficking.

113. Maldives welcomed efforts for the socioeconomic development of the country.

114. Mexico acknowledged progress in implementing universal periodic review recommendations, in particular the constitutional amendments and the Law on Public Participation.

115. Montenegro called upon Azerbaijan to take additional measures to introduce a human rights-based model of disability.

116. Morocco welcomed efforts to fight corruption, including the establishment of the National Action Plan for Open Government 2016–2018.

117. Myanmar welcomed steps to fulfil international human rights obligations. It expressed concern about reports of the repression of civil society.

118. Namibia commended Azerbaijan on the referendum, which had led to the strengthening of constitutional protection for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

119. Nepal welcomed the achievement of economic development and the subsequent promotion of social and economic rights.

120. The Netherlands encouraged Azerbaijan to take additional steps to strengthen human rights and the rule of law, including ensuring freedom of expression by enhancing the protection of journalists and human rights defenders.

121. Nigeria welcomed efforts to improve anti-corruption legislation and the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

122. Norway expressed deep concerns about additional restrictions placed on civil society since the previous review.

123. Pakistan appreciated efforts to ensure the welfare of refugees and persons that had been internally displaced as a result of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

124. Panama highlighted the establishment of an intergovernmental group with civil society participation to draft the third national report.

125. Paraguay welcomed the record of Azerbaijan in ratifying and reporting on international treaties and the law on domestic violence. It expressed concern about the use of the terminology "illegal migrants".

126. Peru recognized advances in the fight against poverty and efforts to modernize the judicial system and to change the approach of the authorities towards children in conflict with the law.

127. The Philippines welcomed the Migration Code and the Preschool Education Act. It also appreciated efforts to institutionalize a centralized national child database.

128. Portugal welcomed efforts to combat human trafficking and the establishment of a protection mechanism for unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

129. Qatar appreciated legislative measures to enhance the national legal framework and the cooperation with special procedure mandate holders.

130. The Republic of Korea welcomed initiatives aimed at enhancing access to courts and the efficiency of the administration of justice.

131. The Republic of Moldova noted the progress made in the reform of the justice system, the increased public spending on education and to ensure access to health care and investment in capacity-building, human rights education and training.

132. Romania welcomed the standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders.

133. Costa Rica highlighted a number of advances, including cooperation with the treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders.

134. Azerbaijan reiterated its commitment to democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms. It provided details on the electronic court system, which was in the process of development. The Bar Association had been reformed to ensure the independence and quality of legal services. Azerbaijan actively cooperated with the Council of Europe and the United Nations on combating torture, and applied a zero-tolerance policy to torture, which was criminally liable.

135. Azerbaijan respected its commitments under the European Court of Human Rights. If the Court found a violation of an individual's human rights by virtue of a final decision of the national courts, those decisions were reviewed in accordance with national legislation. In 2015 the European Court had delivered a judgment against Armenia in a case involving Azerbaijani internally displaced persons, confirming the fact of the ongoing occupation of a significant part of the territory of Azerbaijan by Armenia. The judgment had not been executed yet. Promotion of the rights of national minorities was also among the main priorities of the Government. Among other measures, there were television and radio programmes in minority languages, including Armenian.

136. Azerbaijan emphasized that over the past 15 years extreme poverty had been eliminated and absolute poverty had decreased to 5.4 per cent. GDP had grown by 3.2 times, the gross income of the population by 9.8 times and unemployment had been reduced to 5 per cent. Regional development programmes concentrated mainly on rural areas, including the construction and renovation of 8,000 km of roads, 300 bridges and tunnels, 52 km of gas pipelines for households, 8,000 schools, 300 kindergartens and 451 hospitals. About 700,000 persons in 487 rural settlements had gained access to clean water.

137. Azerbaijan noted that the draft law on disabilities was expected to be adopted by the parliament in the near future. Azerbaijan used the international classification of diseases in the identification of disabilities.

138. Azerbaijan stated that all necessary steps had been taken to ensure that persons in detention could communicate unhindered with human rights defenders. The State guaranteed the right to peaceful assembly and association and had not interfered in any lawful demonstrations.

139. Azerbaijan also noted that in 2017, 148 cases of human trafficking had been identified. The 17 children in detention were constantly monitored and computer-based learning opportunities were organized for them with a view to assisting their future reintegration into society.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

140. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Azerbaijan and enjoy the support of Azerbaijan:**

140.1 **Maintain the positive dynamics of ratifying international human rights treaties (Bangladesh);**

140.2 **Continue to align national human rights legislation with international human rights standards (Cuba);**

140.3 **Harmonize national legislation in conformity with the international treaties that Azerbaijan has acceded to (Egypt);**

140.4 **Continue to bring national human rights legislation in line with international human rights standards (Jordan);**

140.5 **Establish a national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up of human rights issues in line with elements identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

140.6 **Strengthen national mechanisms for follow-up on the implementation of international human rights recommendations received by the State, through the establishment of a broad inter-institutional mechanism (Paraguay);**

140.7 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

140.8 **Extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica);**

140.9 **Continue efforts to implement accepted recommendations relating to combating torture and other forms of cruel treatment (Lebanon);**

140.10 **Continue cooperating with the Human Rights Council mechanisms (Sudan);**

140.11 **Continue its efforts to promote and protect human rights in collaboration with the Human Rights Council and OHCHR, on the basis of the needs identified by Azerbaijan (Tajikistan);**

140.12 **Continue active engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms (Viet Nam);**

140.13 **Fully cooperate with, respond to, and follow the recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, the Committee against Torture and all Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders (Greece);**

140.14 **Share with others national best practices for peaceful coexistence (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

140.15 **Share best national practices of the peaceful coexistence of different religions and confessions (Iraq);**

140.16 **Maintain and further continue its valuable contributions for the strengthening of inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue (Kazakhstan);**

140.17 **Continue measures to strengthen the capacity of national human rights protection mechanisms (Uzbekistan);**

140.18 **Increase and extend to all public service sectors training on the protection of the rights of persons in situations of human mobility (Ecuador);**

140.19 **Continue to improve national legislation and to strengthen corresponding institutions, ensuring the rights of women and children (Belarus);**

140.20 **Continue taking effective measures to better promote and protect the rights of women and children in the country (Kazakhstan);**

140.21 **Create the conditions and secure adequate resources for the Ombudsman's Office to develop its full capacity and fulfil its mandate (Slovakia);**

140.22 **Reform the Ombudsman institution to maintain a status according to the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions (Germany);**

140.23 **Continue to strengthen the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, including enhanced resource allocation (Sri Lanka);**

140.24 **Craft a comprehensive, long-term national action plan that would encompass all government efforts to promote and protect the human rights of its people (Philippines);**

140.25 **Consider adopting a national action plan to promote all women's rights (Namibia);**

140.26 **Continue efforts to develop an education system on human rights (Uzbekistan);**

140.27 **Continue efforts in the field of human rights education and training (Morocco);**

140.28 **Provide training to law enforcement, the judiciary and other stakeholders on handling cases of violence against women and ensure that all cases are promptly and thoroughly investigated (Canada);**

140.29 **Continue making available professional training programmes for government employees and legal workers to increase human rights education (Egypt);**

140.30 **Continue efforts to achieve gender equality, particularly in the labour market (Tunisia);**

140.31 **Comprehensively implement the existing national legislation prohibiting gender discrimination (India);**

140.32 **Maintain the positive dynamics of gender equality in the public service recruitment process (Pakistan);**

140.33 **Strengthen the national legal framework against all forms of discrimination based on disability (Algeria);**

140.34 **Take appropriate steps to counter racial discrimination, including by introducing a definition of racial discrimination in national legislation (Namibia);**

140.35 **Continue promoting capacity-building activities aimed at harmonizing national institutions in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16 (United Arab Emirates);**

140.36 **Further the Sustainable Development Goal-centred approach deployed by the Government in taking measures designed to advance the promotion and protection of human rights (Viet Nam);**

140.37 **Enhance the role of women in strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable development (Bahrain);**

140.38 **Continue enhancing the role of women in strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable development (Bangladesh);**

140.39 **Further the Sustainable Development Goal-centred approach deployed by the Government in taking the measures designed to advance the promotion and protection of human rights (Bangladesh);**

140.40 **Further the Sustainable Development Goal-centred approach in taking measures to advance the realization of the right to education for its people (Indonesia);**

140.41 **Maintain economic development dynamics with a view to improving the well-being of the population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

140.42 **Continue efforts to promote human rights through programmes aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (Kuwait);**

140.43 **Further the Sustainable Development Goal-centred approach deployed by the Government in taking the measures designed to advance the promotion and protection of human rights (Maldives);**

140.44 **Further the Sustainable Development Goal-centred approach deployed by the Government in taking the measures designed to advance the promotion and protection of human rights (Pakistan);**

140.45 **Continue efforts to improve the quality of education in public schools while implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

140.46 **Take further steps to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, taking into account the**

recommendations from the Working Group on business and human rights (Thailand);

140.47 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children and promote non-violent alternatives as disciplinary measures (Uruguay);**

140.48 **Revise current legislation in order to explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including at home (Montenegro);**

140.49 **Ensure the implementation of the Presidential decree on the improvement of the penitentiary system, in particular the parts on the renovation of infrastructure, the enhancement of control over conditions of detention and the prevention of potential cases of corruption (Russian Federation);**

140.50 **Improve conditions in prisons and detention centres, and ensure necessary access to medical care for inmates (Czechia);**

140.51 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and to protect and support victims, particularly women and children (Tunisia);**

140.52 **Carry on efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

140.53 **Pay special attention to women and children in terms of trafficking (Ukraine);**

140.54 **Work towards ending all forms of human trafficking, including by developing a new national action plan for combating trafficking in human beings (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

140.55 **Intensify actions to prevent and fight trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (Angola);**

140.56 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, particularly the exploitation of children and women, by strengthening the fight against traffickers (Djibouti);**

140.57 **Continue with ongoing efforts to combat trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and forced labour (Ghana);**

140.58 **Continue efforts to prevent and combat trafficking of persons for the purpose of labour exploitation (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

140.59 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking (Iraq);**

140.60 **Strengthen efforts to combat human trafficking and to protect and assist the victims of human trafficking, particularly children (Lebanon);**

140.61 **Take all necessary steps to eliminate human trafficking and strengthen measures to provide necessary assistance to victims of trafficking by facilitating their reintegration into society (Malaysia);**

140.62 **Continue to intensify efforts to combat and address human trafficking, including by revising the legal definition of "vulnerable individuals" under the Law on Trafficking in Persons and increasing the number of shelters available to victims of trafficking (Namibia);**

140.63 **Sustain its efforts to combat human trafficking and safeguard the rights of migrant workers (Nigeria);**

140.64 **Apply all legislative, administrative and other measures to combat trafficking in persons (Panama);**

140.65 **Continue and intensify its efforts on behalf of children and women generally, to ensure their safety in the domestic environment and to remove any obstacles to their education, development and access to equal opportunities (Tajikistan);**

140.66 **Take further steps to afford all persons deprived of their liberty all the fundamental legal safeguards from the very outset of their detention (Hungary);**

140.67 **Further increase action aimed at ensuring the promotion of freedom of religion for all confessions throughout the country (Italy);**

140.68 **Continue its work to develop freedom of speech, support the independence of the media and boost the professionalism of journalists and strengthen their social protection (Russian Federation);**

140.69 **Continue to take measures to grantee freedom of association and to engage closely with civil society in upholding human rights protection (Myanmar);**

140.70 **Respect the rights of lawyers (France);**

140.71 **Continue taking further steps to strengthen the juridical system (Tajikistan);**

140.72 **Expand the application of modern information technologies and innovations in the justice system (Belarus);**

140.73 **Ensure the independence, impartiality and transparency of the judicial system, and improve access to justice (France);**

140.74 **Increase the use of technological and electronic innovations in the provision of government services (Qatar);**

140.75 **Continue efforts to implement the national plan to eradicate corruption 2016–2018 (Tunisia);**

140.76 **Continue its ongoing efforts to enhance the transparent and efficient nature of the State Agency for Services and Social Innovations (Turkey);**

140.77 **Continue progress in combating corruption through the use of innovative approaches (United Arab Emirates);**

140.78 **Intensify efforts to eradicate corruption (Bahrain);**

140.79 **Continue to enhance transparency in public entities and to strengthen its legal and policy framework to eradicate corruption in the public sector (Singapore);**

140.80 **Continue to share best national practices for the provision of public services through a single window model, in order for them to be subsequently replicated (Cuba);**

140.81 **Maintain the progress achieved in eliminating corruption at the national level (Iraq);**

140.82 **Continue to use technological innovation to promote public legal services (Kuwait);**

140.83 **Continue with its efforts to combat corruption and other related economic crimes (Nigeria);**

140.84 **Further strengthen its ongoing judicial reform process through smart technology and an awareness programme for law enforcement staff (Myanmar);**

140.85 **Ensure that any allegations of torture are investigated effectively, independently and impartially (Switzerland);**

140.86 **Continue efforts to fight corruption at the national level (Morocco);**

140.87 **In line with the Human Rights Committee, take specific measures for the exercise of political participation in plural and competitive elections (Costa Rica);**

140.88 **Continue efforts to promote and protect civil, economic and cultural rights (Yemen);**

140.89 **Strengthen ongoing initiatives aimed at improving the economic and social welfare of its citizens, in particular their health and education (Sri Lanka);**

140.90 **Continue measures to improve the equitable enjoyment of socioeconomic rights by vulnerable and marginalized communities (Nepal);**

140.91 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, raise people's standard of living and lay a solid foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights by its people (China);**

140.92 **Continue efforts to implement the national programme for social and economic development (Libya);**

140.93 **Continue to strengthen social security measures to provide assistance for low-income families (China);**

140.94 **Continue its efforts to combat poverty, especially among the most disadvantaged and marginalized members of the population, and reduce disparities between the capital and rural areas (State of Palestine);**

140.95 **Continue to strengthen its successful social programmes in the fight against poverty and social exclusion (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

140.96 **Continue efforts aimed at strengthening social policy and poverty eradication (Saudi Arabia);**

140.97 **Continue strengthening poverty reduction policies for rural areas, including through measures to strengthen small sustainable agriculture (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

140.98 **Adopt a national policy on employment for young people, in particular for young people in rural areas (Honduras);**

140.99 **Reinforce the implementation of the action programme on the protection of mother and child health to ensure a reduction of the high prevalence of maternal and infant deaths (Angola);**

140.100 **Continue its efforts to further improve access to, and the quality of, health-care services (Brunei Darussalam);**

140.101 **Continue its efforts to improve health-care facilities in rural areas in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

140.102 **Increase easy access to health-care services, ensure an adequate budget for health expenditures, improve the health-care infrastructure and promote the skills of health service providers (India);**

140.103 **Continue to implement the programme of action on the protection of women's and children's health and ensure that all programmes related to maternal and child health are extended to rural areas (Kyrgyzstan);**

140.104 **Promptly adopt the bill on reproductive health and family planning (Uruguay);**

140.105 **Ensure women's decision-making powers concerning their health status and the use of abortion for family planning (Iceland);**

140.106 **Ensure that school-age children, including foreigners, have the right to education (Algeria);**

140.107 **Continue to invest in State spending on public education, in particular in rural areas, to promote equal access to education (Singapore);**

140.108 **Continue efforts aimed at the protection and promotion of women's rights through relevant strategies, action plans and campaigns (Georgia);**

140.109 **Continue enhancing the role of women in strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable development (Turkmenistan);**

140.110 **Continue assistance for and promotion of women's empowerment both in the public and private sectors (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

140.111 **Continue to take systematic and coherent measures to raise awareness of and combat discrimination against women (Romania);**

140.112 **Enhance efforts to address patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes through strengthened implementation of relevant laws and policies (Rwanda);**

140.113 **Increase efforts to eliminate violent and discriminatory practices against women, specially addressing the issue of selective abortions based on the sex of the fetus (Uruguay);**

140.114 **Strengthen existing measures to raise awareness of and combat discrimination against women (Zimbabwe);**

140.115 **Continue to take systematic and coherent measures to raise awareness of and combat discrimination against women (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

140.116 **Continue efforts to enhance gender parity and promote non-discrimination against women in all spheres (Sri Lanka);**

140.117 **Continue taking measures to combat violence against women, including by conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the negative impact of gender-based stereotypes with a view to eliminating them (Republic of Moldova);**

140.118 **Continue and intensify efforts to promote gender equality and reduce violence against women through systematic and coherent measures (Malaysia);**

140.119 **Take additional measures to promote and protect women's rights, combat domestic violence and promote gender equality, including legal reforms on gender violence and the development of a national action plan (Brazil);**

140.120 **Increase its efforts to promote and protect the rights of women, fight against domestic violence and promote gender equality (Togo);**

140.121 **Strengthen measures to combat domestic violence and violence against women, including through the implementation of legislation to ensure justice for victims (Rwanda);**

140.122 **Continue efforts to ensure women's rights by completing the adoption and implementation of gender equality measures and the fight against domestic violence (Gabon);**

140.123 **Intensify efforts to promote and protect women's rights, with a specific focus on the fight against domestic violence (Italy);**

140.124 **Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of women, to combat domestic violence and to achieve gender equality (Kyrgyzstan);**

140.125 **Involve women more actively in the decision-making process and ensure their full and equal participation in political and public life (Ukraine);**

140.126 **Strengthen mechanisms to promote the full and effective participation of women in different spheres, thus guaranteeing their effective incorporation into public life (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

140.127 **Step up efforts to strengthen the role of women in the political and socioeconomic development of the country (Bulgaria);**

140.128 **Continue with the work that has allowed greater political participation of women in decision-making positions in recent years (Ecuador);**

140.129 **Strengthen the full participation of women, on an equal footing with men, in political and public life (Peru);**

140.130 **Promote more integrated youth and adolescent services, involving multiple agencies, to improve the availability of and access to complementary services, with a particular focus on access to such services for girls and young women (Republic of Moldova);**

140.131 **Implement the action programme on the protection of mother and child health, and ensure that all maternal and child health programmes cover rural areas (Togo);**

140.132 **Accelerate its legislative reform process aimed at protecting the rights of the child (Zimbabwe);**

140.133 **Include in the Criminal Code provisions expressly prohibiting child pornography (Côte d'Ivoire);**

140.134 **Ensure the adoption and effective implementation of the draft law on the rights of persons with disabilities (Russian Federation);**

140.135 **Consider adopting laws on the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the general principles of the policies of the Government (Sudan);**

140.136 **Expedite the formulation of the law on the rights of persons with disabilities, based on the recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and with civil society participation (Thailand);**

140.137 **Invest additional efforts to comprehensively improve the situation of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion (Serbia);**

140.138 **Ensure that the State Programme for the Development of Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities is successfully implemented and share experience and best practices with other Member States (Brunei Darussalam);**

140.139 **Continue to implement policies to support the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in society and their active participation in community life, and allocate adequate financial resources for this purpose (Djibouti);**

140.140 **Complete the elaboration and adoption of all legislative and institutional measures for persons with disabilities (Gabon);**

140.141 **Continue its institutional reforms for strengthening the protection of human rights, including by intensifying measures to adopt the bill on the rights of persons with disabilities (Indonesia);**

140.142 **Continue to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

140.143 **Explicitly include in its legislation the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of disability (Panama);**

140.144 **Continue implementing programmes and projects aimed at ensuring access to inclusive education for all children with disabilities (Bulgaria);**

140.145 **Disseminate successful national experience to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue (Belarus);**

140.146 **Continue to strengthen intercultural dialogues (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

140.147 **Continue its constructive engagement in ensuring the rights of Azerbaijani internally displaced persons forcefully expelled from the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan to return to their native lands (Turkey);**

140.148 **Maintain the positive experience of allocating adequate funds for welfare programmes for internally displaced persons (Bangladesh);**

140.149 **Maintain the positive experience of allocating adequate funds for the welfare programme for internally displaced persons (Jordan);**

140.150 **Raise awareness of the efforts taken to ensure the rights of internally displaced persons to return to their native lands in safety and dignity (Maldives);**

140.151 **Continue to make every effort to ensure the rights of internally displaced persons to return to their native lands in safety and dignity (Pakistan);**

140.152 **Continue efforts to guarantee equality of access to education with the continuation of the provision of academic scholarships for internally displaced persons (Qatar).**

141. **The following recommendations will be examined by Azerbaijan, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council:**

141.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal) (Spain);**

141.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and ensure its full implementation (Slovakia);**

141.3 **Intensify internal coordination related to accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);**

141.4 **Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

141.5 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Burundi) (Portugal);**

141.6 **Take into consideration the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Romania); Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Uruguay);**

141.7 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria) (Spain);**

141.8 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and align its national legislation (Cyprus);**

141.9 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Côte d'Ivoire) (Cyprus) (Spain);**

141.10 **Ratify the Council of Europe Istanbul Convention (Estonia);**

141.11 **Ratify the human rights instruments to which it is not a party yet, in particular the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Honduras);**

141.12 **Extend a standing invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to undertake fact-finding country visits with respect to the situation of the judiciary and legal professions in the country (Greece);**

141.13 **Establish independent and transparent mechanisms for disciplinary proceedings against lawyers in conformity with the Basic Principles on the Role**

of Lawyers and Recommendation No. R(2000)21 of the Council of Europe on the freedom of exercise of the profession of lawyer (Austria);

141.14 **Comply with decisions of the European Court of Human Rights concerning illegal imprisonments on politically motivated charges (Cyprus);**

141.15 **Respect its obligations as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, and implement all decisions of the European Court of Human Rights (France);**

141.16 **Take the necessary measures to combat acts of violence and discrimination, such as stigmatization, against persons pertaining to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, and encourage Azerbaijan to deepen the measures to ensure the investigation and sanctioning of those acts (Argentina);**

141.17 **Ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people are protected against all forms of discrimination and violence in both law and practice (Canada);**

141.18 **Adopt a comprehensive legal framework against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

141.19 **Thoroughly review its applicable legislation, in line with its international obligations and commitments, in order to eliminate and combat discrimination based on any ground, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Honduras);**

141.20 **Ensure that the existing anti-discrimination legal framework explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**

141.21 **Take steps to intensify the fight against all forms of discrimination, in full compliance with international obligations (Italy);**

141.22 **Incorporate the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in the current legal framework (Mexico);**

141.23 **Implement a comprehensive awareness-raising campaign on the elimination of existing sex-based stereotypes (Montenegro);**

141.24 **Ensure that article 283 of the Criminal Code on incitement to racial hatred is not misused to persecute or intimidate individuals for their political beliefs (Republic of Korea);**

141.25 **Continue measures to ensure that ethnic minorities, including the Lezghui and Talysh populations, enjoy all their rights (Peru);**

141.26 **Adopt a draft law on the protection of children from all forms of corporal punishment (Kyrgyzstan);**

141.27 **Safeguard children's rights by enacting the draft Law on the Protection of Children against All Forms of Corporal Punishment (Namibia);**

141.28 **Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment of journalists, human rights defenders and activists, and bring perpetrators to justice (Slovakia);**

141.29 **Take measures to eradicate torture, ill-treatment and arbitrary arrests in line with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In addition, strengthen public policies and education to combat discrimination and violations of the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community (Costa Rica);**

141.30 **Protect persons from arbitrary detentions and ill-treatment that they face for any personal consideration, including their sexual orientation and**

gender identity, ensuring their full social integration on the same footing (Spain);

141.31 **Immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners arrested on political grounds, including Mr. Ilgar Mammadov, and adopt safeguards against arbitrary or politically motivated detention (Norway);**

141.32 **Release all activists, journalists and bloggers held on politically motivated charges, and dismiss the criminal charges against those individuals that have already been released (Australia);**

141.33 **Ensure that human rights defenders, lawyers and civil society actors are able to carry out their activities without fear or threat of reprisal, obstruction or legal or administrative harassment, as previously recommended (Sweden);**

141.34 **Stop all politically motivated legal proceedings against independent civil society actors (Sweden);**

141.35 **Amend the Code of Administrative Offences, the Law on Grants and the Law on NGOs to eliminate requirements for re-registration and to simplify regulations on access to funding (Sweden);**

141.36 **Ensure the right to freedom of expression, including by revoking its decision from 2017 to block the websites of several independent and opposition media (Sweden);**

141.37 **Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, both online and offline, freedom of association and peaceful assembly (Switzerland);**

141.38 **Immediately and unconditionally release all individuals in custody for exercising their fundamental freedoms, including the rights to freedom of expression, association, assembly and religion (United States of America);**

141.39 **Amend the Law on Advocates and Advocates' Activities to remove executive and judicial representatives from the Qualification Commission of the Bar Association, to prevent the use of punitive measures against lawyers for their human rights work, and to ensure transparent criteria and procedures for admission (United States of America);**

141.40 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee that all persons can exercise peacefully their right to freedom of expression in conformity with international standards, in particular regarding human rights defenders (Argentina);**

141.41 **Remove libel and defamation as criminal offences and take further steps to ensure journalists may work freely and without fear of retribution (Australia);**

141.42 **Review administrative and legislative provisions and projects, including on defamation, to fully guarantee the enjoyment of freedom of expression, assembly and association (Austria);**

141.43 **Take steps to implement its international obligations on freedom of expression, including the decriminalization of defamation (Belgium);**

141.44 **Create the environment for a free and independent media and take effective measures to ensure that the press and media can work free from oppression, intimidation or reprisals (Slovakia);**

141.45 **Take steps to cease restrictions on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and ensure that the right to manifest one's religion in private or in public is fully protected and realized (Ghana);**

141.46 **Ensure full respect for freedom of expression in line with its international commitments, including by ensuring that all journalists may work freely and without fear of retribution, allowing foreign media broadcasts**

without undue restrictions, ensuring unfettered access to the country for journalists and ending the travel restrictions against independent journalists, NGO leaders and opposition members (Greece);

141.47 **Immediately and unconditionally release all persons arbitrarily detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, including Ilgar Mammadov, in order to respect the decision of the European Court of Human Rights (Slovenia);**

141.48 **Let the Internet remain an area for free speech, particularly by unblocking the opposition websites closed in the spring of 2017, and stopping the persecution of people voicing critical opinions online (Norway);**

141.49 **Guarantee the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly (Peru);**

141.50 **Strengthen the legal framework for the protection of human rights and basic freedoms, including freedom of expression as included in the national plan (Lebanon);**

141.51 **Continue ensuring that human rights defenders and journalists are protected from any act of intimidation or reprisal or any other impediment to their work (State of Palestine);**

141.52 **Permit peaceful civic activity by ending cases against NGOs and independent media, removing undue restrictions to accessing foreign grants and amending laws regarding the registration, operation, and funding of NGOs, in accordance with the recommendations of multilateral institutions, and ending the blocking of independent and opposition websites (United States of America);**

141.53 **Repeal the recent legislation that restricts freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and ensure a safe environment for journalists, activists and human rights defenders (Spain);**

141.54 **Take measures to guarantee the safety of journalists, in conformity with resolution 33/2 of the Human Rights Council, and ensure prompt, impartial and thorough investigations (Chile);**

141.55 **Ensure freedom of expression and media freedom, including by promptly and thoroughly investigating all allegations of the torture and ill-treatment of journalists, human rights defenders and youth activists, and prosecute perpetrators (Estonia);**

141.56 **Decriminalize defamation, and include it in the Civil Code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

141.57 **Ensure freedom of expression and the press, in particular by reviewing the Law on Defamation and ceasing the blocking of opposition sites (France);**

141.58 **Bring administrative and legal practices regarding the freedom of assembly into line with article 49 of the Constitution and article 5 of the Law on Freedom of Assembly (Germany);**

141.59 **Guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of assembly, expression and association, also by improving the environment for NGOs to freely carry out their activities (Italy);**

141.60 **End all interference in the work of lawyers through disbarment or other disciplinary measures on improper grounds such as expressing critical views (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

141.61 **Remove legislative and practical obstacles to the registration, funding and operation of NGOs (Australia);**

141.62 **Take all necessary measures to support the development of a vibrant civil society, in particular by simplifying the rules on the financing of NGOs (Belgium);**

141.63 **Revise legislation requiring civil society organizations to register activities to better protect the effective operation of civil society and the media, consistent with international law (Canada);**

141.64 **Remove legislative and practical obstacles to the functioning of civil society (Croatia);**

141.65 **Ensure that all civil society organizations and activists can operate without undue hindrance or fear of persecution (Cyprus);**

141.66 **Amend laws restricting the activities of civil society, including the Code of Administrative Offences and the law on grants and amend the law on NGOs in order to simplify NGO registration and their access to funding (Czechia);**

141.67 **Ensure that human rights lawyers are not disbarred for political reasons and remain entitled to represent clients in courts (Czechia);**

141.68 **Ensure that all defendants have access to appropriate legal representation, including by increasing the number of qualified lawyers (Estonia);**

141.69 **Revise the Law on NGOs in order to promote the development of civil society (France);**

141.70 **Revise restrictive NGO and grant legislation from early 2014 and bring it into line with international standards (Germany);**

141.71 **Ensure that all governmental authorities, in cooperation and consultation with the Bar Association and with lawyers themselves, take steps to ensure that lawyers are protected from intimidation and harassment or other improper interference in their work (Slovenia);**

141.72 **Revise all laws, regulations and practices concerning freedom of association, to bring them into full compliance with international human rights standards (Ireland);**

141.73 **Review and amend legislation related to the registration of NGOs and their financial means, with a view to guaranteeing the independence of civil society representatives (Mexico);**

141.74 **Enhance the protection of journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs by removing undue restrictions to access foreign grants and amending NGO legislation, particularly regarding the registration, operation and funding of NGOs (Netherlands);**

141.75 **Review its legislation regarding NGOs in order to ensure a safe and enabling environment for them to operate and have free access to funding (Norway);**

141.76 **Refrain from any undue interference in the work of lawyers and ensure the effective independence of the Bar Association of Azerbaijan (Germany);**

141.77 **Revise the selection process for the bar of lawyers, ensuring the use of objective, transparent and independent criteria, which will promote the legal protection of all persons (Mexico);**

141.78 **Investigate all allegations and prosecute perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment of journalists and political opponents, and strengthen the training of relevant public authorities and staff on human rights (Republic of Korea);**

141.79 **Investigate thoroughly allegations of ill-treatment of individuals in police custody with perpetrators being held to account (Australia);**

141.80 Ensure effective, prompt and independent investigations of all cases of harassment and violence against journalists and human rights defenders and bring perpetrators to justice (Austria);

141.81 Enhance efforts to investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment, in particular against human rights defenders, journalists and members of religious groups, and hold perpetrators accountable (Brazil);

141.82 Investigate promptly and impartially all allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention of civil society actors and develop transparent processes to ensure ready access to legal representation (Canada);

141.83 Thoroughly investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment against detainees and sanction the perpetrators of such acts (Chile);

141.84 Investigate allegations of arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders and journalists, and ensure that freedom of opinion and expression is not unduly restricted on grounds of extremism, defamation or "humiliation of honour" (Czechia);

141.85 Thoroughly investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment of detainees and hold perpetrators accountable (Greece);

141.86 Ensure prompt, effective, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment of human rights defenders, civil society activists and journalists (Ireland);

141.87 Make the necessary adjustments to ensure access of women to employment by eliminating wage inequalities between men and women, and promote collective bargaining between trade unions and employers by acting as mediators during dialogues and agreements concluded between the parties (Panama);

141.88 Establish a robust legal framework to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Nepal);

141.89 Adopt without delay a national strategy for the prevention of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and allocate the necessary resources for these policies to ensure their effectiveness (Belgium);

141.90 Carry out policies aimed at ensuring the application of the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (Paraguay);

141.91 Redouble its efforts to ensure access to inclusive and quality education for girls and women in rural areas (Honduras);

141.92 Take measures to ensure that the secondary school attendance rate among girls in rural areas is raised to the commendably high level of attendance of girls in urban areas (Hungary);

141.93 Continue and strengthen ongoing efforts to eliminate child marriage and ensure that girls complete secondary education before getting married (Togo);

141.94 Continue efforts to eliminate child marriage and to ensure that girls go through secondary education before marriage (Kyrgyzstan);

141.95 Pursue efforts to preserve cultural and linguistic diversity including through the education system (Russian Federation);

141.96 Facilitate the procedure of compulsory registration for minority communities and do not unnecessarily obstruct their religious freedom (Spain);

141.97 Use the terminology "migrants in an irregular situation" for those who enter into the country and have not yet completed the entry formalities (Paraguay);

141.98 Implement a non-discriminatory asylum policy (Switzerland);

141.99 Grant all asylum seekers access to the asylum system, by ensuring that the definition of refugees is compatible with article 1 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (Netherlands);

141.100 Take the necessary measures to ensure the access of all children, in particular internally displaced children, to the education system (Afghanistan);

141.101 Guarantee all the rights of freed activists (France).

142. In the view of Azerbaijan, the recommendations listed below are not relevant since they are not factually correct, are a unilateral interpretation of the respective matters and do not comply with the bases of the review stipulated in Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, and therefore will not be considered by Azerbaijan:

142.1 Stop the use of corruptive means to foster Azerbaijan's conflict perpetuation at different international organizations (Armenia);

142.2 Collaborate fully with the European Court of Human Rights regarding the application on the case of *Hayk Makuchyan and Samvel Minasyan v. Azerbaijan and Hungary* (Armenia);

142.3 Condemn the repeated and unpunished use of inflammatory warmongering language by high-level politicians speaking about Armenia and the Armenians and its adverse impact on public views (Armenia);

142.4 Ensure that foreigners with Armenian surnames are not denied access to the country on arbitrary and discriminatory bases (Armenia);

142.5 Preserve and protect the cultural and archaeological heritage in its jurisdiction, without altering their cultural and ethnic identity, including the medieval Armenian cemetery in Julfa (Armenia);

142.6 Stop falsifying statistics on internally displaced persons and refugees by applying a misleading methodology of accounting (Armenia).

143. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Azerbaijan was headed by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Khalaf Khalafov and composed of the following members:

- Amb. Vaqif Sadiqov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Toghrul Musayev, Deputy Minister of Justice;
- Mr. Ismat Aliyev, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs;
- Mrs. Sevinj Hasanova, Deputy Minister of Economy;
- Mr. Natiq Mammadov, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Population;
- Mrs. Sadagat Gahramanova, Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs;
- Mr. Chingiz Asgarov, Chief of Section, Presidential Administration;
- Mr. Vahid Gahramanov, Deputy Head of Directorate, State Migration Service;
- Mr. Faig Gurbanov, Head of Human Rights and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Ismayil Asadov, Chief of Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Rafi Gurbanov, Deputy Chief of Division, State Committee on Religious Associations;
- Mr. Rashad Hasanov, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Emil Hasanov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Seymur Mardaliyev, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the UN Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Emin Aslanov, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.